



Also: *Tommy*
TOMORROW SPACE PLANETEER



ACTION COMICS

DEC.
NO. 187

10c

Featuring
"SUPERMAN'S
NEW
SUPER-
POWERS!"

HEY!
KRYPTONITE
IS SUPPOSED TO
MAKE **SUPERMAN**
WEAK--BUT IT AIN'T
WORKING ON HIM
ANY MORE!





Draw Me!

Try for a FREE ART SCHOLARSHIP!

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Amateurs Only! Our students not eligible. Make copy of girl 5 ins. high. Pencil or pen only. Omit lettering. All drawings must be in by November 30, 1953. None returned. Winner notified.

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Please enter my attached drawing
in your contest. (PLEASE PRINT)

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Please enter my attached drawing
in your contest. (PLEASE PRINT)

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SUPERMAN



ALL THE WORLD IS FAMILIAR WITH SUPERMAN'S AMAZING POWERS--HE CAN MOVE AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT, PULVERIZE GIANT ROCKS WITH HIS BARE HANDS, SEE THROUGH THE THICKEST WALLS WITH HIS X-RAY VISION! HAVING THESE AND OTHER SUPER POWERS, MUST HE ADD STILL MORE TO CONQUER THE FORCES OF EVIL? AND IF SO, WHAT CAN THEY BE? YOU'LL BE AMAZED TO LEARN THE STARTLING ANSWERS, AND TO SEE HOW HIS NEW ABILITIES NEARLY DEFEAT HIM, WHEN THE MAN OF STEEL DEMONSTRATES...

"SUPERMAN'S NEW SUPER POWERS!"

I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND! THE KRYPTONITE BOUNCED OFF HIM! SUPERMAN'S INVULNERABLE TO IT!

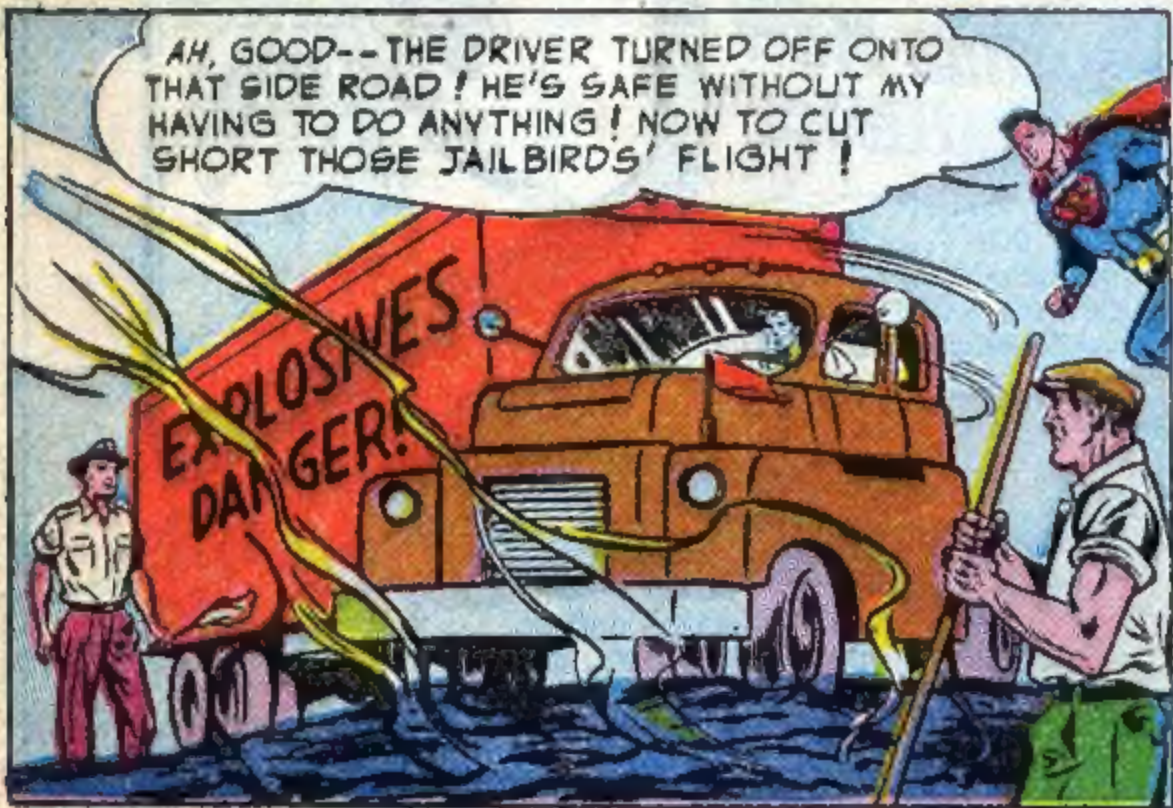
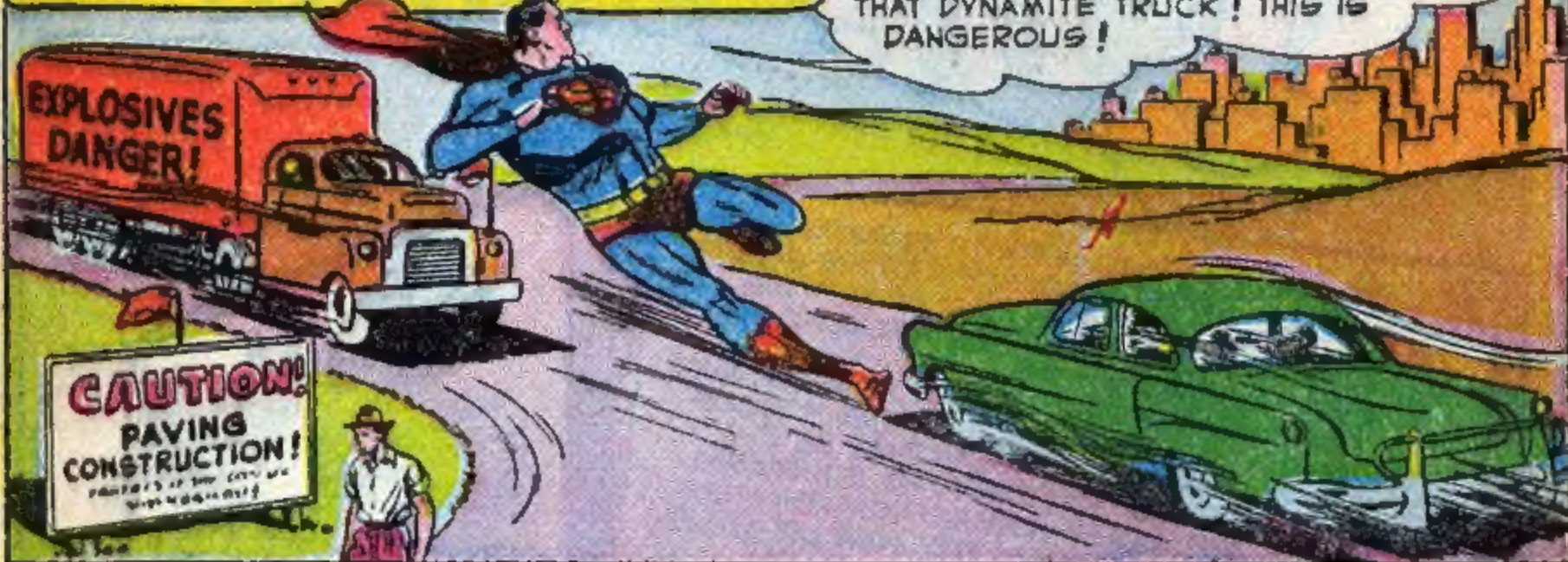
WE--WE MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE, BOSS! THIS IS THE DAY HE GETS HIS NEW SUPER POWERS!

TODAY IS
AUGUST
14



ONE MORNING, AS A FLEETING GETAWAY CAR CHARGES DOWN A METROPOLIS HIGHWAY...

THE CROOKS WHO PULLED THAT BANK JOB MIGHT COLLIDE WITH OR SIDESWIPE THAT DYNAMITE TRUCK! THIS IS DANGEROUS!



AND AS **SUPERMAN** FLIES OFF, ONE SPECTATOR OBSERVES HIM WITH PARTICULAR INTEREST...

SO--THE GREAT **SUPERMAN** ADMITS HE ISN'T PERFECT, EH? WELL, I MUSTN'T LET THAT ENCOURAGE ME... I MUST REMEMBER THAT IN ALL THE YEARS I'VE BEEN BATTLING HIM, I'VE ALWAYS COME OUT THE LOSER!



THAT EVENING, AS THIS SAME MAN SITS BEFORE A TELEVISION SET...

I ASKED YOU TO BE MY GUEST ON MY SCIENCE PROGRAM, **SUPERMAN**, SINCE IN ANOTHER TWO WEEKS, THE BODIES IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM WILL AGAIN BE IN THE EXACT POSITION THEY WERE IN WHEN **KRYPTON**, YOUR NATIVE PLANET, EXPLODED!

HEY! GET A LOAD OF THIS, SILVER! YOUR "PAL" **SUPERMAN**'S ON TELEVISION! AS ONE OF HIS "FANS", YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS **THIS** SHOW! HA, HA!



LET THE COMEDIANS PULL THE JOKES, ELF--I WANT TO HEAR THIS!

AS YOU GREW UP ON EARTH, IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT YOU COULD DO ANYTHING THROUGH YOUR SUPER POWERS! ISN'T THAT RIGHT, **SUPERMAN**?

WELL, NOT QUITE ANYTHING, PROFESSOR! THERE ARE SOME THINGS I CAN'T DO!



HEY! HEAR THAT, BOSS? WHY CAN'T WE PLAN JOBS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF **SUPERMAN**'S WEAKNESS?

DO YOU THINK I'M A FOOL? THE SUPER POWERS HE **DOES** POSSESS MORE THAN MAKE UP FOR HIS FAILINGS! NOW, IF YOU HAVE ANY MORE BRIGHT IDEAS, ELF, FILE THEM IN THE WASTE BASKET!



SEVERAL DAYS LATER, AT THE DEDICATION OF A NEW BRIDGE...

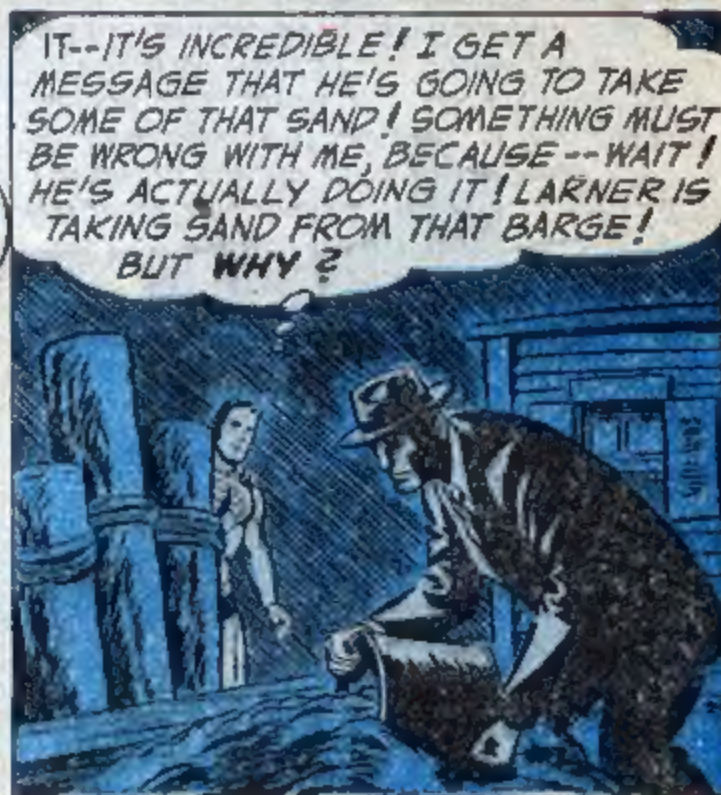
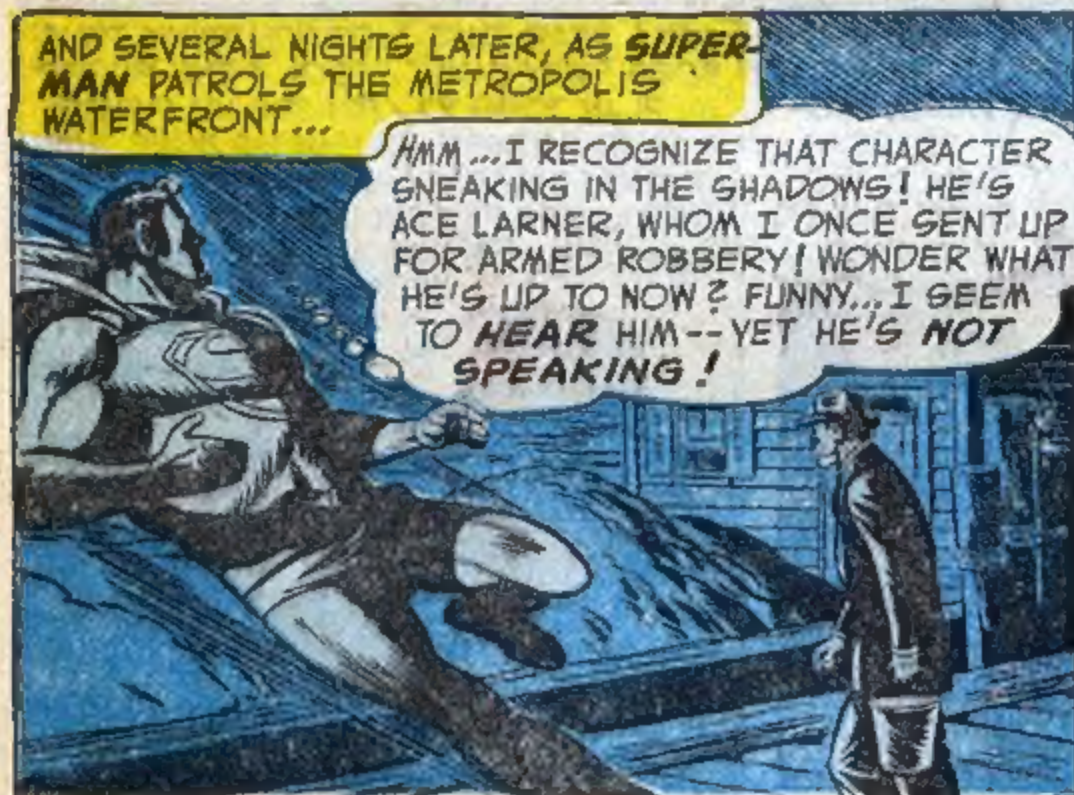
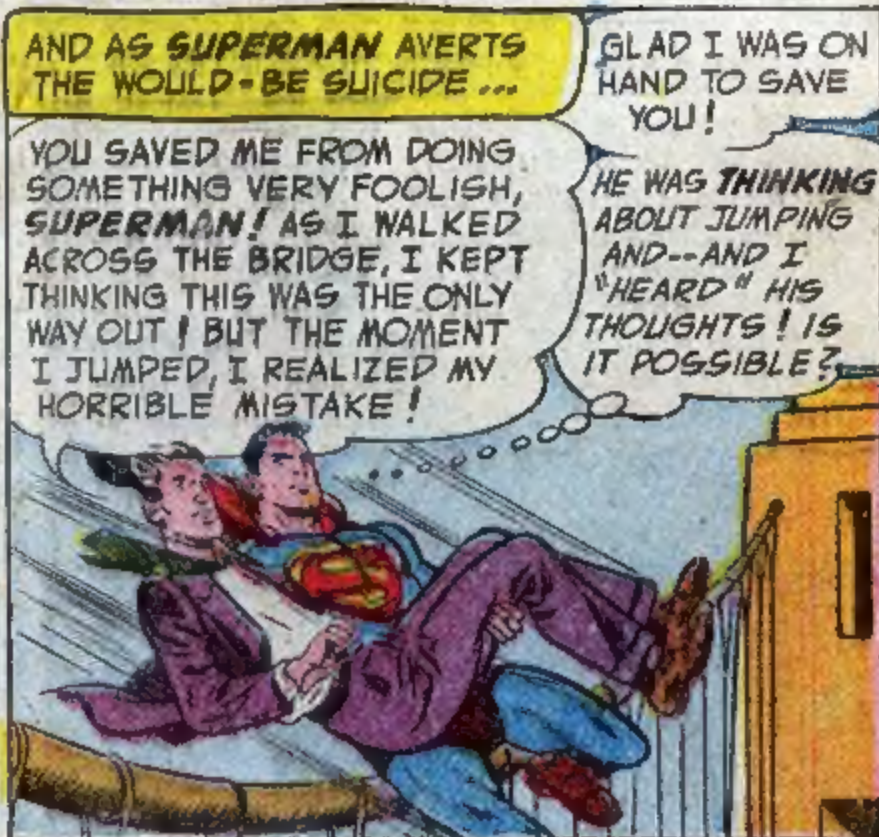
WE'RE READY, **SUPERMAN**! YOU MAY CUT THE RIBBON TO OPEN THE BRIDGE!

WAIT A MINUTE! THAT MAN ON THE BRIDGE... I SEEM TO HEAR HIM SAY HE'S GOING TO JUMP OFF--! ...YET HE'S NOT SPEAKING! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

SUPERMAN! I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU, MR. MAYOR! YOU HAVEN'T CUT THE RIBBON!

THIS IS PROBABLY MY IMAGINATION! BUT I'VE SUCH A STRONG FEELING THAT THAT MAN WILL JUMP, I MUST BE NEAR HIM, JUST IN CASE!







SOMEHOW I KNEW THAT MAN ON THE BRIDGE WAS THINKING OF JUMPING--AND HE DID! THEN I GET A CRAZY FEELING THAT A BANK ROBBER IS THINKING OF TAKING ORDINARY SAND--AND HE DOES! IS IT POSSIBLE THAT I HAVE A SUPER POWER I WASN'T AWARE OF--THE POWER TO **READ MINDS**?



NEXT DAY, AT A TELEVISION STUDIO...

I'M PLANNING A VERY SPECIAL SHOW ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAY YOU CAME TO EARTH, **SUPERMAN!** I HOPE YOU'LL TAKE PART IN IT!

I'LL BE HAPPY TO, PROFESSOR!

HOPE HE DOESN'T KEEP ME HERE TOO LONG! I'D LIKE TO GET AWAY AND INVESTIGATE THIS SUDDEN NEW POWER OF MINE TO "HEAR" PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS!



AND LATER...

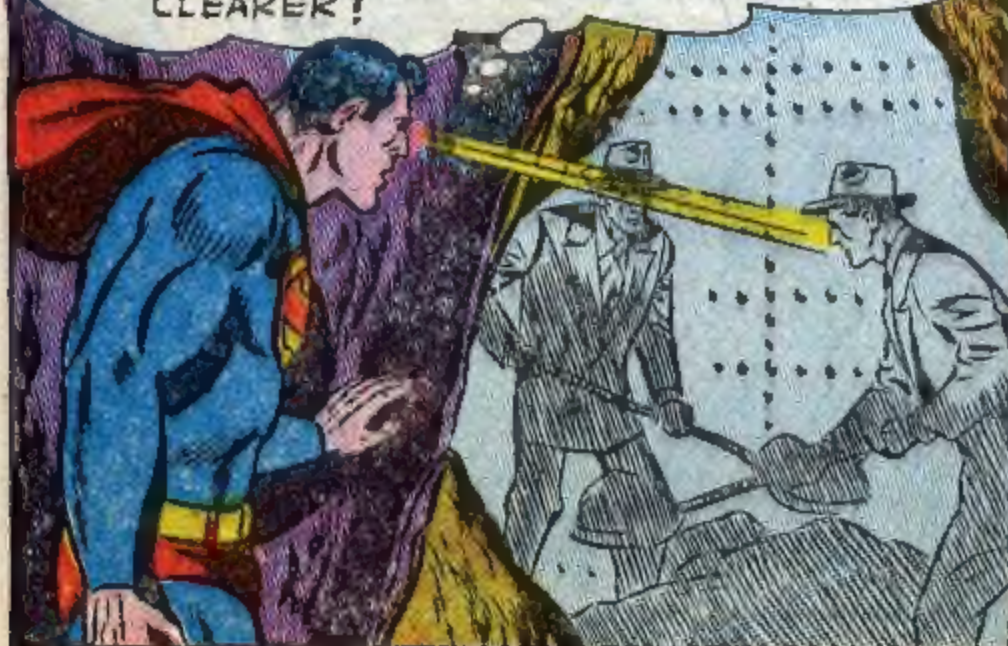
NOT A SIGN OF ACTIVITY AROUND THIS CAVE WHERE LARNER TOOK THE SAND! TOO BAD MY X-RAY VISION CAN'T HELP ME SEE WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE!



WELL, THERE'S NO HARM IN **TRYING!** PERHAPS THERE'S AN AREA AROUND THE DOOR WHERE NO LEAD... WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT IS THIS? I CAN ACTUALLY SEE SHADOWY FIGURES THROUGH THE **LEAD DOOR!** HAVE I ACQUIRED **ANOTHER SUPER POWER?**



IS MY X-RAY VISION PLAYING TRICKS ON ME? THOSE FIGURES ARE DOING NOTHING BUT **PILING UP SAND!** PERHAPS I'D BETTER RETURN ANOTHER TIME, WHEN MY MIND IS CLEARER!



AFTERWARDS...

THANKS FOR COMING BACK TO HELP ME PREPARE FOR THE BIG SHOW, **SUPERMAN!** THERE ARE ONLY THREE DAYS LEFT, YOU KNOW!

IN THREE DAYS, THE SOLAR SYSTEM WILL BE AS IT WAS WHEN KRYPTON EXPLODED! COULD THAT FACT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH MY APPARENT ABILITY TO **READ MINDS** AND **SEE THROUGH LEAD?** OR IS IT AFFECTING MY BRAIN IN SOME SUBTLE WAY?



AND AS THEY START WORKING ON THE SETS...

THAT'S RIGHT, **SUPERMAN**... PUT SATURN A BIT MORE TO THE LEFT!

AS A TEST, I'LL TRY READING THE PROFESSOR'S MIND RIGHT NOW! HMM... I GET NOTHING! PERHAPS THE NEW SUPER POWERS WERE JUST A STRANGE TWIST OF MY IMAGINATION!

WAIT! THAT MAN PASSING BY-- I SEEM TO HEAR HIM SAY THAT HE HAS DISCOVERED SOME **KRYPTONITE**--THE SUBSTANCE FROM MY NATIVE PLANET WHICH I CAN'T APPROACH WITHOUT BECOMING **HELPLESS**!



PRESENTLY...

HE WENT INTO THE GAME CAVE WHERE LARNER TOOK THE SAND! IF ONLY MY **X-RAY VISION** CAN... YES! NOW I CAN SEE THROUGH THAT LEAD DOOR AS IF IT WERE GLASS!

THIS MAY EXPLAIN WHY I COULDN'T READ THAT PROFESSOR'S MIND! PERHAPS I ONLY GET THOUGHTS FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE HIGHLY **EXCITED**--LIKE A MAN PLANNING **SUICIDE** OR **ROBBERY**--AND NOW ONE WHO HAS FOUND **KRYPTONITE**! I MUST FOLLOW HIM!... THIS WILL PROVE ONCE AND FOR ALL IF I CAN ACTUALLY READ MINDS!

GOSH, I... FEEL SO WEAK! THEN IT'S TRUE... THE THOUGHT WAVE I RECEIVED ABOUT THE **KRYPTONITE**! IT MUST BE STORED IN THAT CAVE! BUT EVEN WITH MY NEW SUPER POWERS, I CAN'T OVERCOME ITS EFFECT ON ME! I'M STILL **HELPLESS** WHEN NEAR IT!

BUT AS THE **MAN OF STEEL** APPROACHES THE **LEAD-LINED CAVE**...



THE PUZZLED SUPERMAN DEPARTS -- AND SOMETIME LATER INSIDE THE CAVE...

I'M GETTING TIRED OF WAITING, SILVER! THIS KRYPTONITE WE ACCIDENTALLY FOUND... WHEN ARE WE GONNA USE IT ON **SUPERMAN**?

YOU YOUNGSTERS ARE ALWAYS IN A HURRY--THAT'S WHY YOU FAIL IN CRIME! AFTER ALL, OTHER CROOKS HAVE FOUND CHUNKS OF KRYPTONITE-- BUT **SUPERMAN** DEFEATED THEM JUST THE SAME!

WHEN YOU'VE HAD MY EXPERIENCE, YOU LEARN PATIENCE! INSTEAD OF RUSHING AHEAD AND TRYING TO DEFEAT **SUPERMAN**, MY PLAN WILL MAKE HIM DEFEAT HIMSELF!



WITH THIS RADIO DEVICE, I'VE SENT OUT ULTRA-HIGH FREQUENCY WAVES--SOUNDS NO ORDINARY HUMAN COULD HEAR! BUT **SUPERMAN** PICKED THEM UP WITH HIS SUPER-HEARING!

YOU BROADCAST A MESSAGE THAT I WAS GONNA JUMP OFF THE BRIDGE! AND WHEN I DID, **SUPERMAN** THOUGHT HE COULD READ MY MIND!

RIGHT! AND AFTER, HE FOLLOWED ACE TO THIS CAVE, I CHANGED THE GENUINE LEAD DOOR FOR ONE WITH ONLY A LITTLE LEAD IN IT--SO ON HIS SECOND VISIT, HE COULD SEE THROUGH IT DIMLY WITH HIS X-RAY VISION! FINALLY I INSTALLED A PAINTED WOODEN DOOR, WHICH HE SAW THROUGH EASILY!

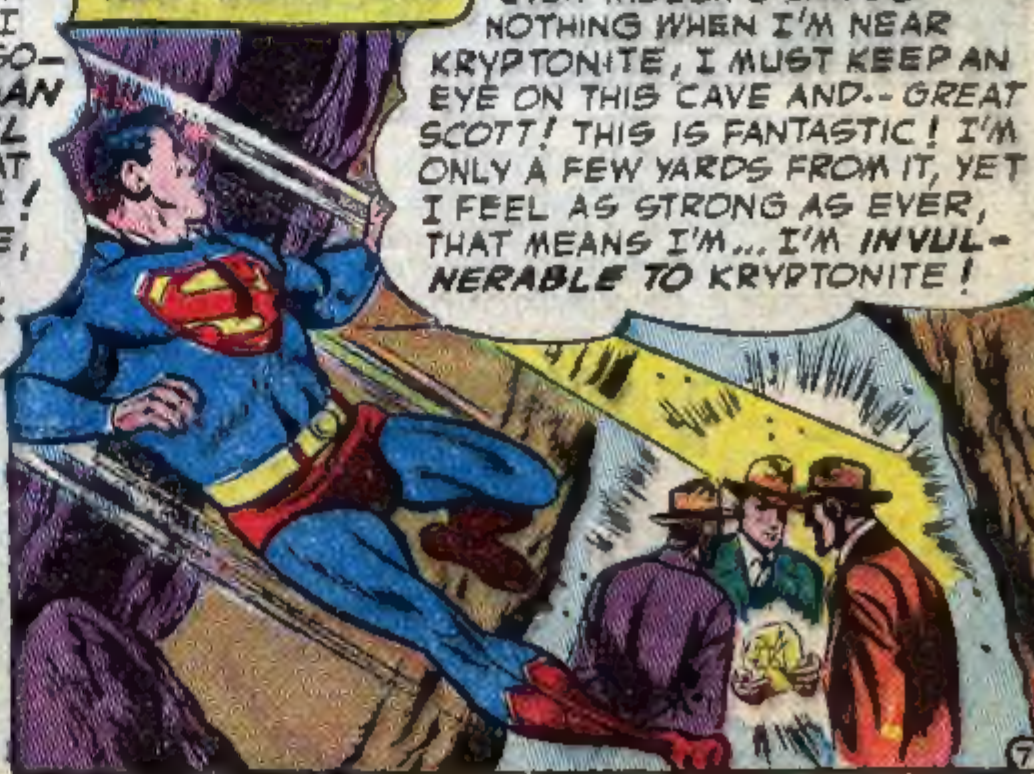


I GET IT! YOU'VE FIXED THINGS SO, **SUPERMAN** THINKS HE HAS NEW SUPER POWERS WHICH HE HASN'T GOT AT ALL! BUT WHAT ABOUT THE KRYPTONITE? HOW DO WE USE THAT?

PATIENCE, MY BOY! AS I SAID, THE SO-CALLED **MAN OF STEEL** WILL DEFEAT HIMSELF! MEANWHILE, YOU AND I HAVE WORK TO DO!

NEXT MORNING...

EVEN THOUGH I CAN DO NOTHING WHEN I'M NEAR KRYPTONITE, I MUST KEEP AN EYE ON THIS CAVE AND-- GREAT SCOTT! THIS IS FANTASTIC! I'M ONLY A FEW YARDS FROM IT, YET I FEEL AS STRONG AS EVER, THAT MEANS I'M... I'M INVULNERABLE TO KRYPTONITE!



SINCE I APPARENTLY HAVE NEW POWERS, I MIGHT AS WELL USE THEM! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I CAN OVERCOME THE FORCE OF KRYPTONITE!



BUT ONCE INSIDE...

ALL RIGHT, ACE! RELEASE THE **REAL** KRYPTONITE! WE'VE GOT **SUPERMAN** IN OUR TRAP!



WHAT--? SUDDENLY I.. I FEEL WEAK! THE THING I SAW THROUGH THE DOOR JUST NOW WAS FAKE KRYPTONITE... THAT'S WHY I WASN'T AFFECTED BY IT! BUT NOW... NOW THEY'VE BROUGHT THE REAL THING NEAR ME--AND I'M **HELPLESS!**

AND WITHIN MINUTES...

HA, HA... THIS IS ONE JOB I NEVER EXPECTED TO BE DOING--TYING UP **SUPERMAN!** WHAT A PLEASURE... YOUR SCHEME WORKED GREAT, SILVER!

WHEN YOU'RE MY AGE YOU DON'T GO TO ALL THIS TROUBLE JUST FOR KICKS! NOW COMES THE PAYOFF... TAKE A LOOK AT THIS MAP OF METROPOLIS, **SUPERMAN!**

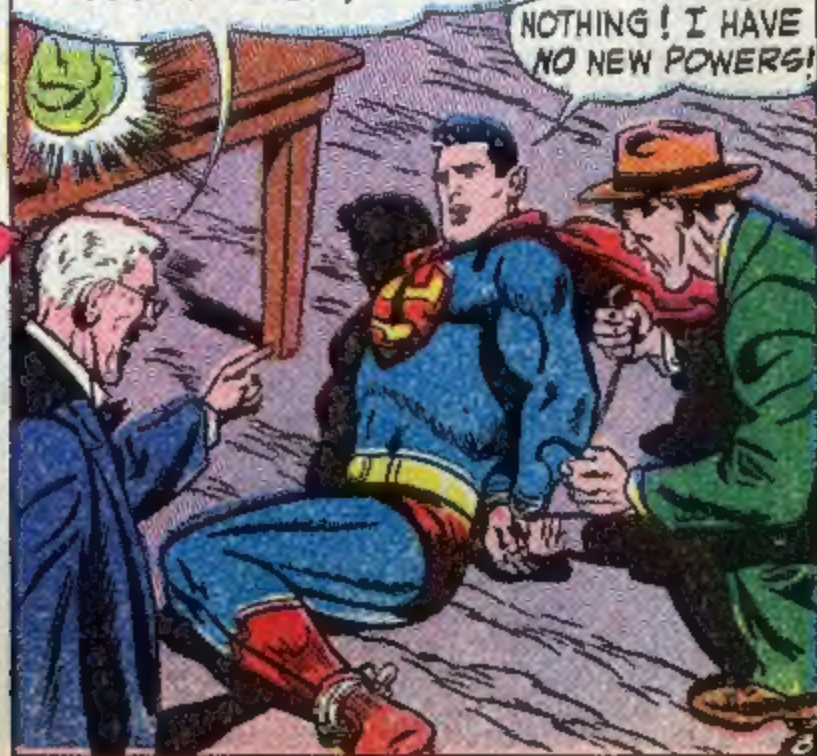
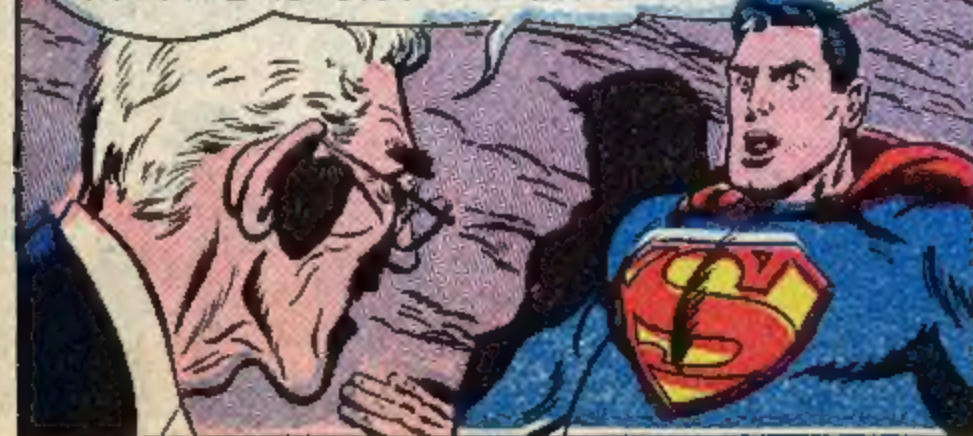


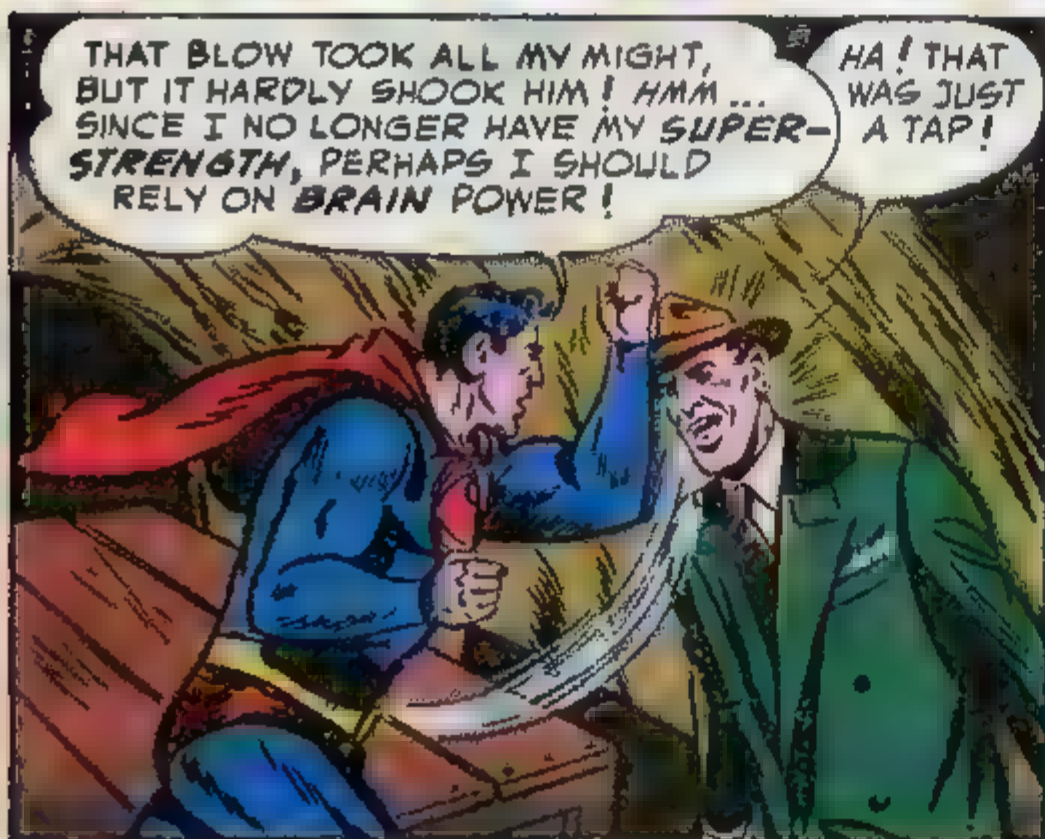
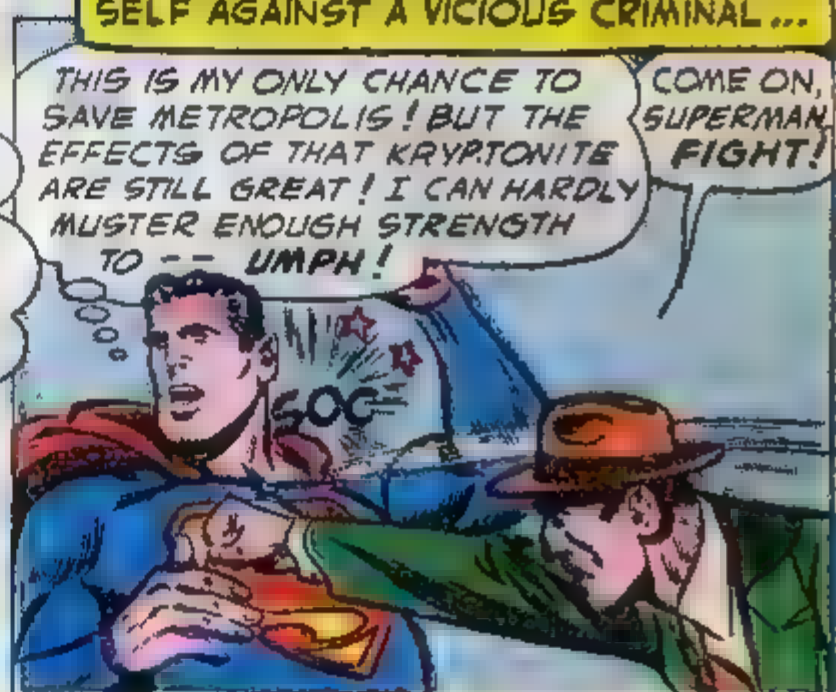
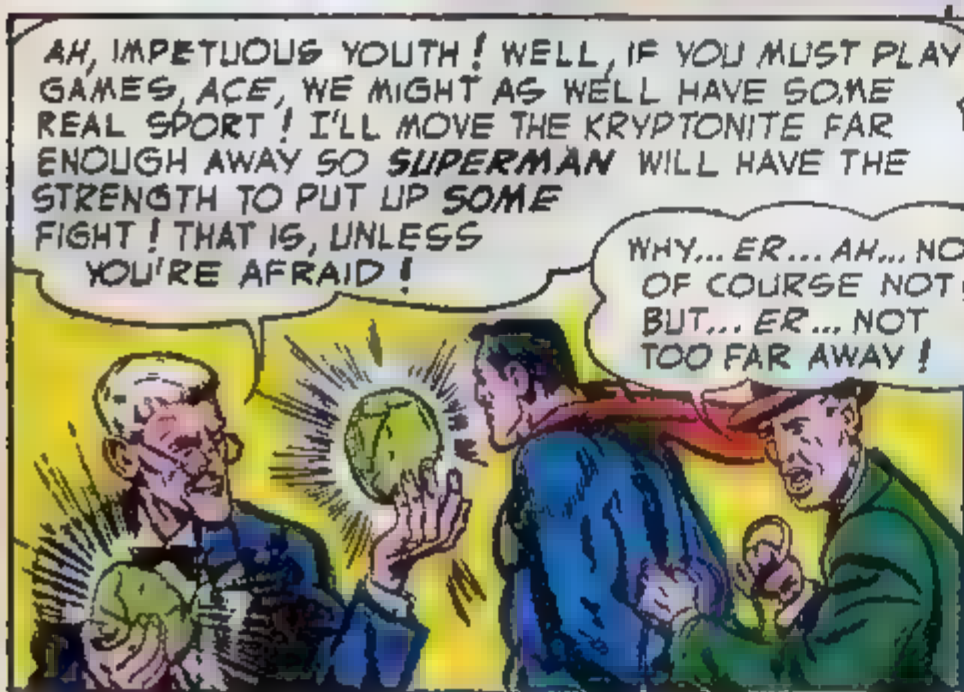
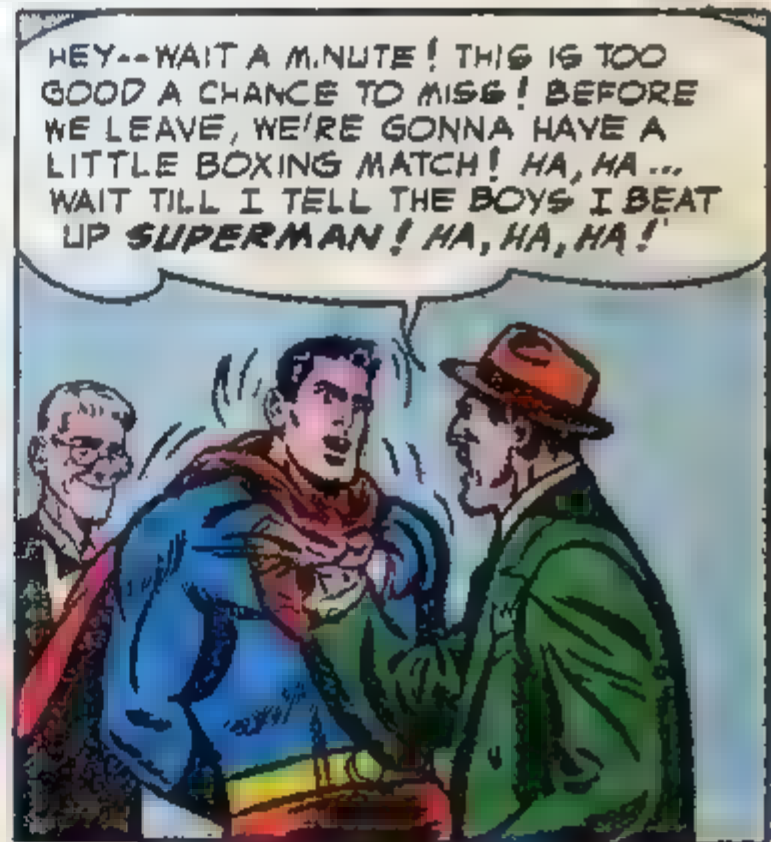
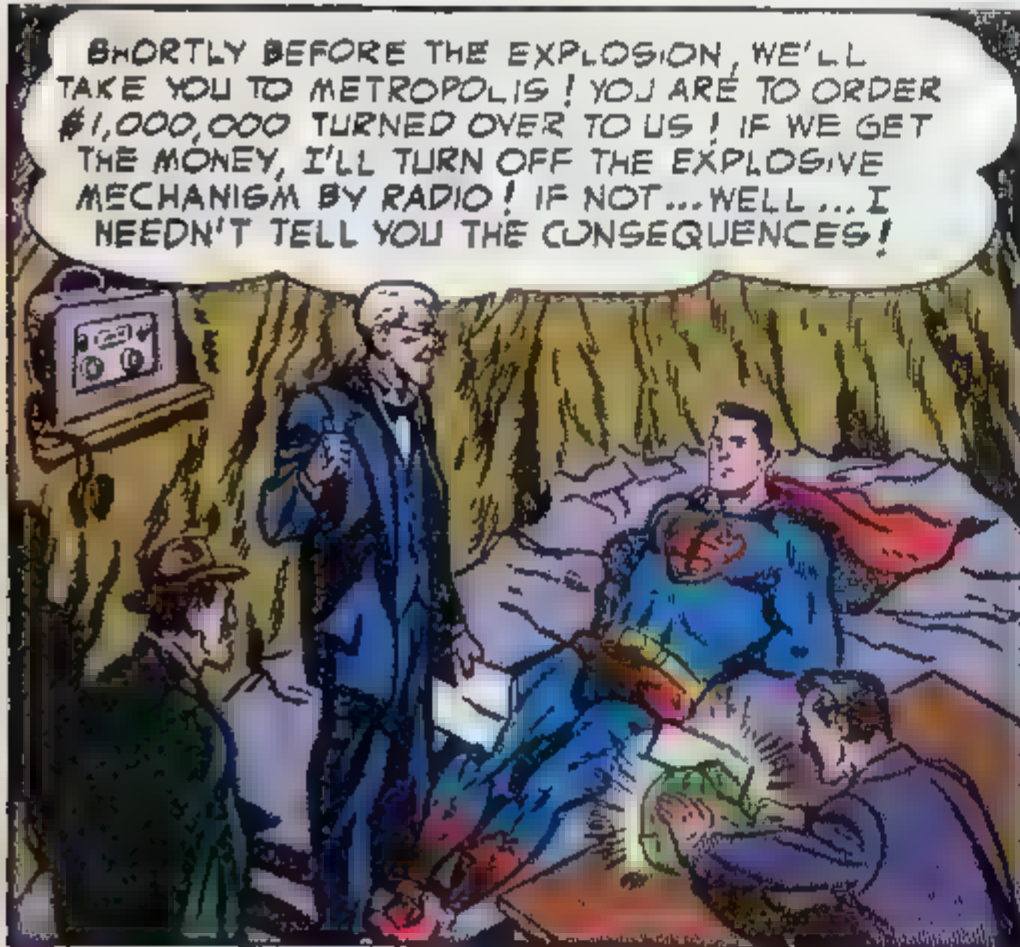
AND IF, BY SOME MIRACLE, YOU **DID** FIND THE EXPLOSIVE, YOU COULDN'T FIND THE SWITCH-OFF MECHANISM IN TIME, BECAUSE THE CONTROLS ARE ENCASED IN **LEAD!** INCIDENTALLY, YOU **CAN'T** SEE THROUGH LEAD... MAKING YOU THINK SO, WAS ALSO JUST A TRICK!

SO THE RETURN OF THE PLANETS TO THE POSITION THEY HELD WHEN KRYPTON EXPLODED MEANS

NOTHING! I HAVE NO NEW POWERS!

SOMEWHERE WE'VE PLANTED AN EXPLOSIVE CAPABLE OF **DESTROYING METROPOLIS!** SINCE YOU NOT ONLY HAVE NO NEW SUPER POWERS, BUT NO SUPER POWERS AT ALL IN THE PRESENCE OF KRYPTONITE, YOU CAN DO NOTHING TO STOP THE EXPLOSION!





HE'S OUT COLD! BET I'M THE FIRST PERSON EVER TO DO THAT TO **SUPERMAN!**

REMEMBER, ACE MY BOY-- PRIDE COMETH BEFORE A FALL! SO STOP BOASTING AND LET'S GET THE FALLEN **MAN OF STEEL** TO METROPOLIS! THE EXPLOSION'S SET TO GO OFF IN LESS THAN AN HOUR!

SHORTLY AFTER, ON A METROPOLIS ROOFTOP...

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, ACE? YOU'D THINK THE KRYPTONITE WE GOT TIED AROUND **SUPERMAN** HAD SOME EFFECT ON YOU, THE WAY YOU'RE PUFFIN'!

WELL... ER... THAT FIGHT WASN'T AS EASY AS IT LOOKED! BUT CUT THE... (PUFF)... GAB! WE MUST GET OUT OF HERE! WHEN **SUPERMAN** COMES TO, HE'LL REMEMBER ABOUT THE EXPLOSIVE!

BUT SINCE HE'S HELPLESS IN THE PRESENCE OF THE KRYPTONITE, AND SINCE HE WOULDN'T HAVE TIME TO FIND THE CHARGE ANYHOW, HE'LL TELL THE METROPOLIS BANKS TO TURN OVER THE \$1,000,000!

THEN WE GRAB IT AND LAM!

AND PRESENTLY...

THIS SPECIAL T.V. SETUP I, ARRANGED ENABLES US TO SEE HIS EVERY MOVE, AND... AH--LOOK! **SUPERMAN'S** COMING TO... AND ONLY A SHORT TIME BEFORE METROPOLIS IS BLOWN SKY HIGH!

HE'D BETTER LET OUT A YELL AND GET THOSE BANKERS FAST IF HE WANTS TO SAVE THE CITY!

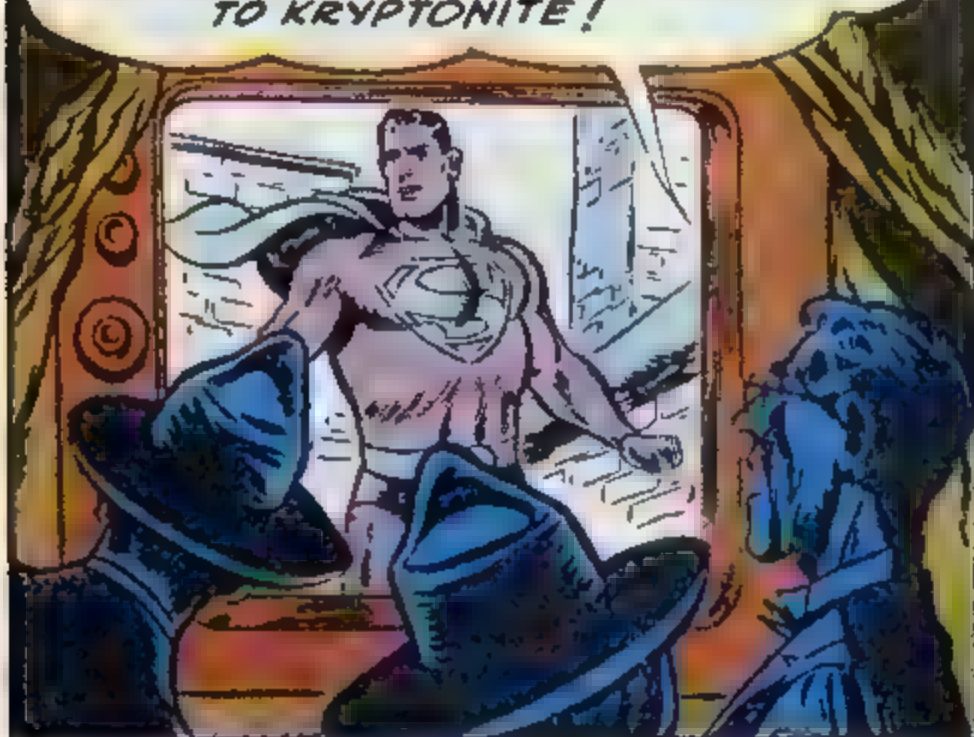
HA! HE THINKS HE CAN SAVE THE CITY... BUT ACE AND I FIGURED SOMETHING DIFFERENT! THE EXPLOSIVE MECHANISM **WON'T BE TURNED OFF!** WE'LL HAVE TIME TO GRAB THAT MONEY AND BE GONE-- BEFORE METROPOLIS IS BLOWN SKY HIGH! AND THE KRYPTONITE HAS SO WEAKENED **SUPERMAN'S** INVULNERABILITY, HE MAY BE DESTROYED ALSO!

BUT JUST THEN...

SILVER! LOOK! **SUPERMAN** DOESN'T SEEM WEAKENED BY THAT KRYPTONITE! HE'S TEARING LOOSE HIS BONDS, AS IF HE HAD THE STRENGTH OF A MADMAN!

I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND! HE WAS ALMOST HELPLESS WHEN WE HAD HIM IN THE CAVE!

W-H-E'S FREED HIMSELF OF THE ROPES, AND HE LOOKS AS POWERFUL AS EVER! WHY, IT'S AS IF HE ACTUALLY WERE INVULNERABLE TO KRYPTONITE!



AND AS THE AMAZING PERFORMANCE ON THE SCREEN CONTINUES...

WE'LL FOLLOW HIM WITH OUR REMOTE CONTROL CAMERA--SEE WHAT HE'S UP TO! THERE'S REALLY NOTHING MUCH ELSE HE CAN DO, SINCE HE'LL NEVER FIND THAT HIDDEN EXPLOSIVE IN TIME!

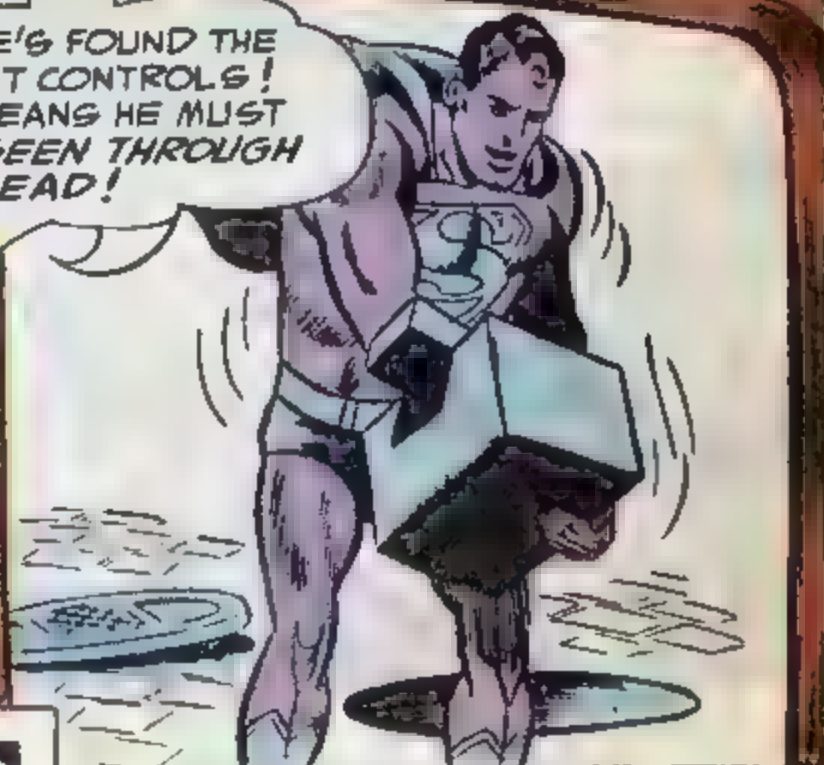


BUT MOMENTS LATER...

INCREDIBLE! SUPERMAN WENT TO THE EXACT SPOT WHERE ACE AND I HID THE CHARGE! ONLY WE KNEW ITS WHEREABOUTS! WHY... WHY, IT'S AS IF HE COULD READ OUR MINDS!



NOW HE'S FOUND THE SECRET CONTROLS! THAT MEANS HE MUST HAVE SEEN THROUGH LEAD!



GULP! TH-THIS IS THE DAY THE PLANETS REACH THE POSITION THEY WERE IN WHEN KRYPTON EXPLODED! MAYBE THAT'S GOT SOMETHIN' TO DO WITH IT, SILVER!

HMM... I FIGURED SUPERMAN WOULD THINK OF THAT DATE AND THUS BE MORE APT TO FALL FOR OUR SCHEME!



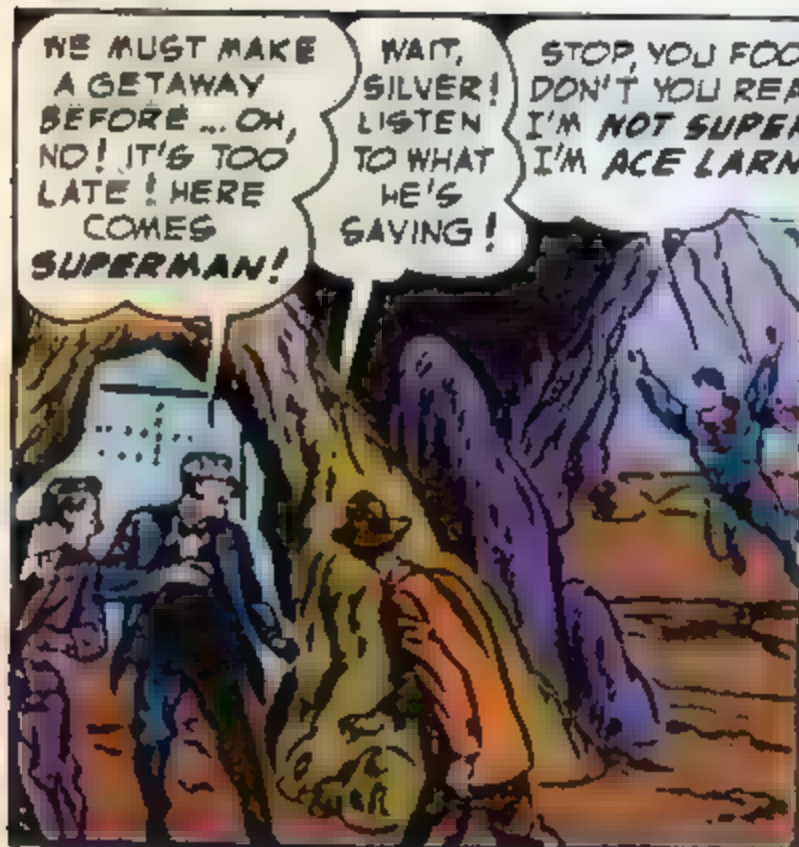
BUT NOW HE'S ACTUALLY DONE THE THINGS WE TRICKED HIM INTO THINKING HE COULD DO! HE'S INVULNERABLE TO KRYPTONITE... HE CAN READ MINDS... AND HE CAN SEE THROUGH LEAD! HE'S MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER!



IS IT TRUE? DOES SUPERMAN REALLY HAVE A WHOLE SET OF NEW SUPER POWERS?



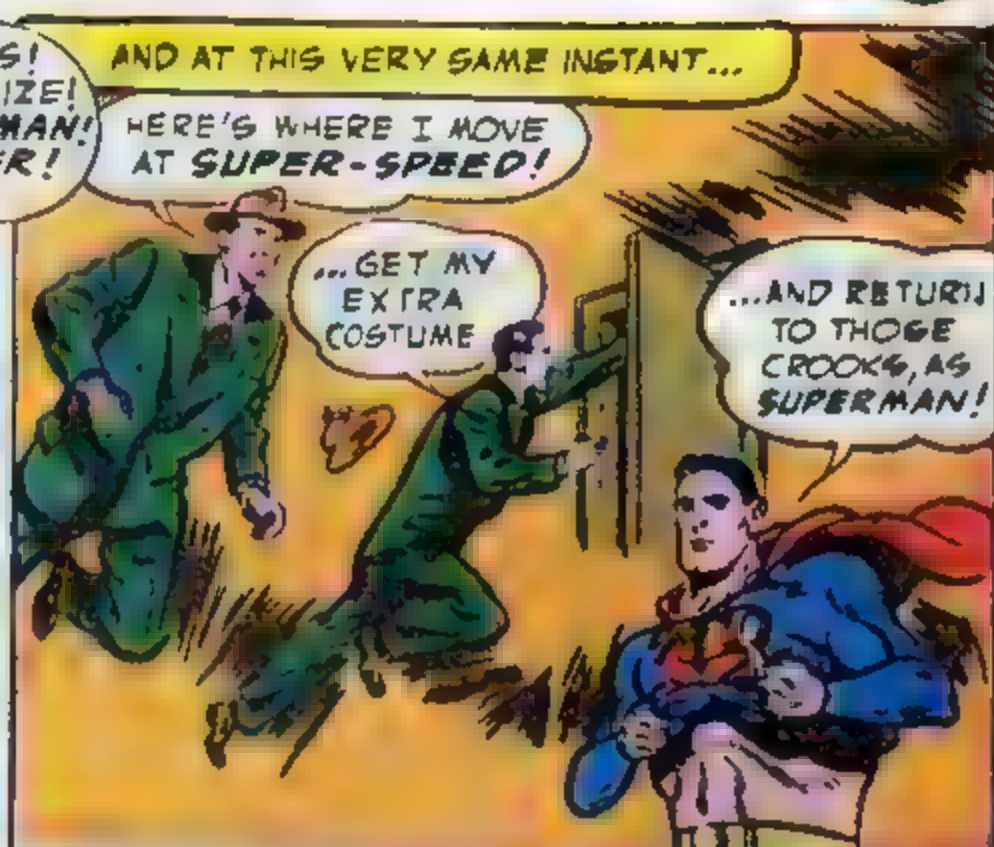
ACTION COMICS



WE MUST MAKE A GETAWAY BEFORE... OH, NO! IT'S TOO LATE! HERE COMES SUPERMAN!

WAIT, SILVER! LISTEN TO WHAT HE'S SAYING!

STOP, YOU FOOLS! DON'T YOU REALIZE! I'M NOT SUPERMAN! I'M ACE LARNER!

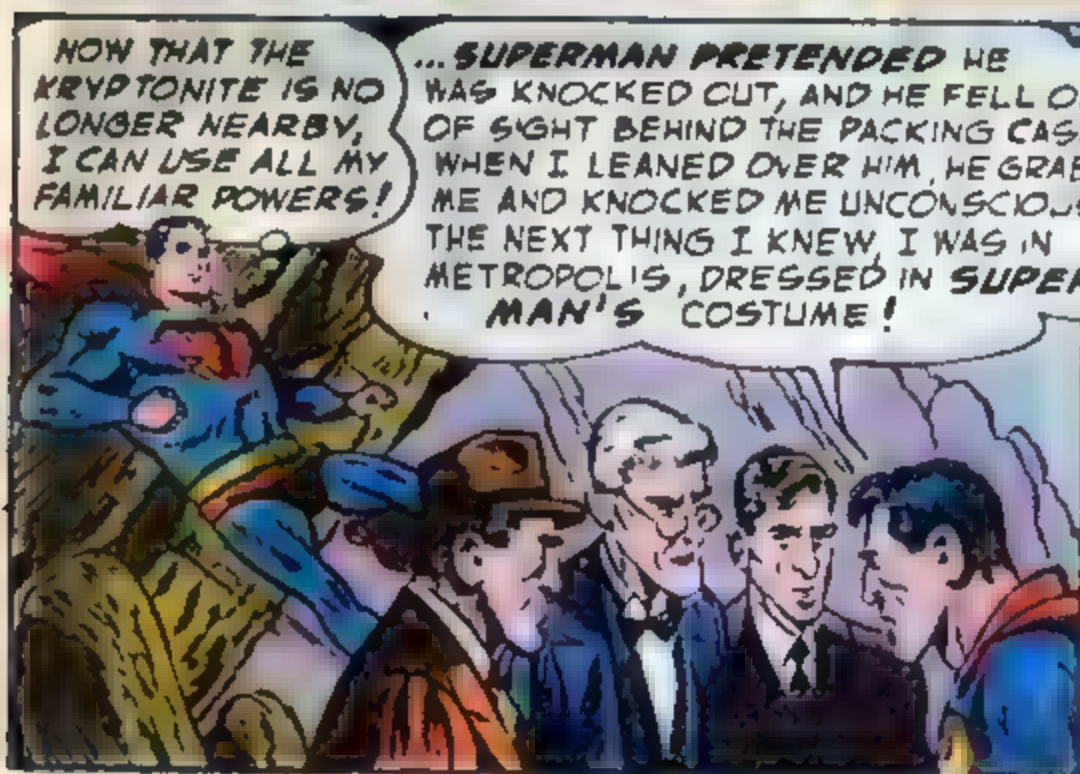


AND AT THIS VERY SAME INSTANT...

HERE'S WHERE I MOVE AT SUPER-SPEED!

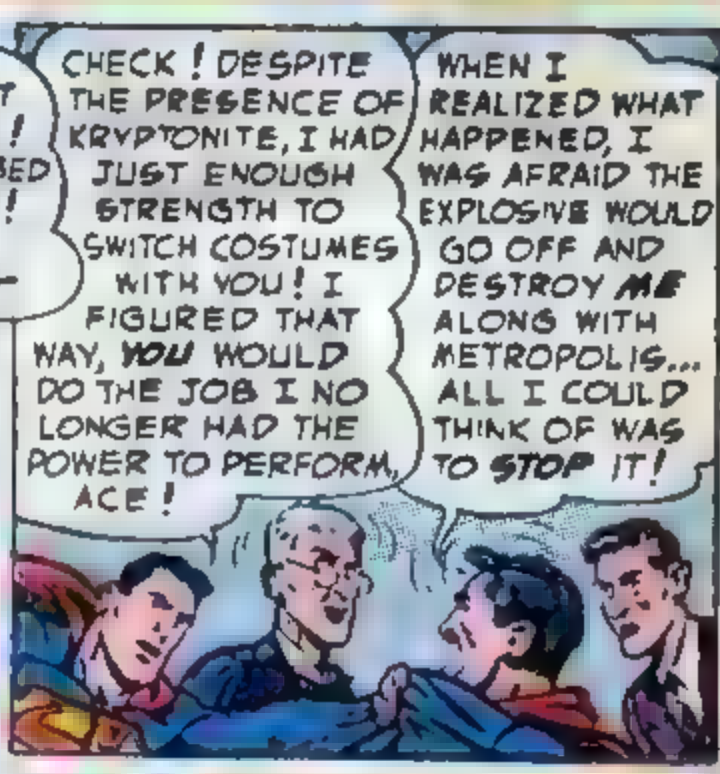
...GET MY EXTRA COSTUME

...AND RETURN TO THOSE CROOKS, AS SUPERMAN!



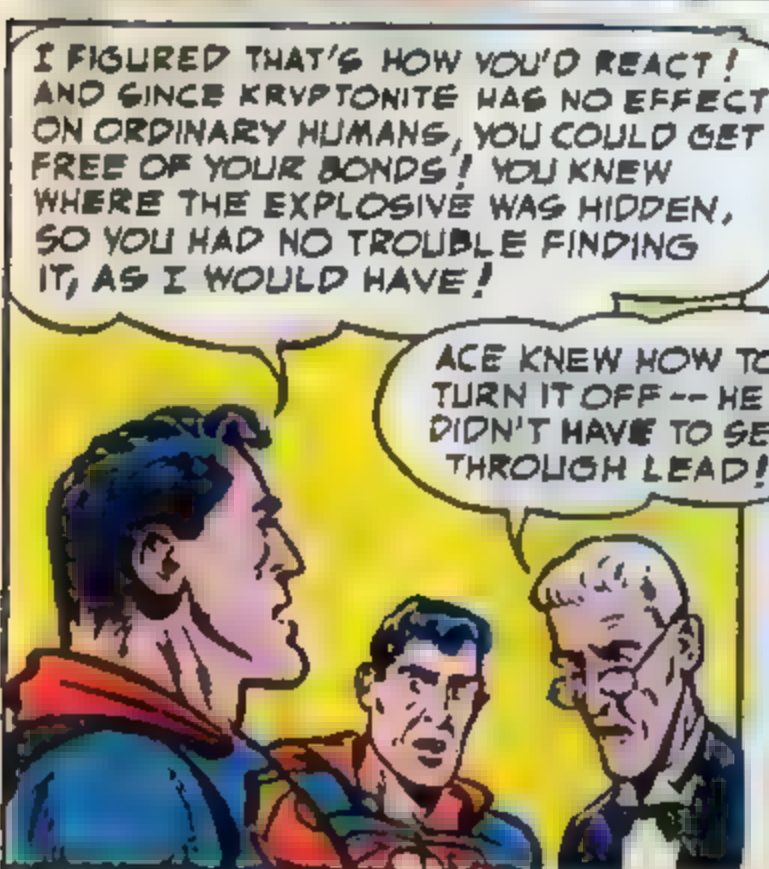
NOW THAT THE KRYPTONITE IS NO LONGER NEARBY, I CAN USE ALL MY FAMILIAR POWERS!

...SUPERMAN PRETENDED HE WAS KNOCKED OUT, AND HE FELL OUT OF SIGHT BEHIND THE PACKING CASE! WHEN I LEANED OVER HIM, HE GRABBED ME AND KNOCKED ME UNCONSCIOUS! THE NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS IN METROPOLIS, DRESSED IN SUPER-MAN'S COSTUME!



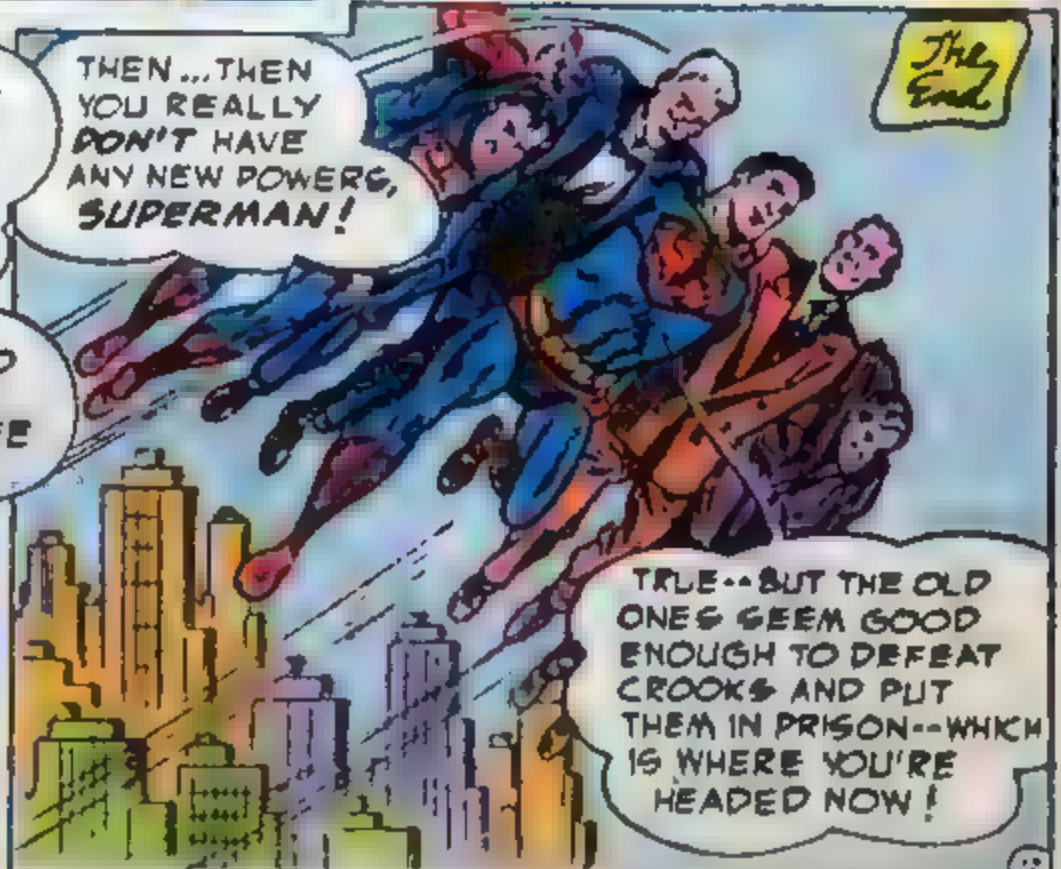
CHECK! DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF KRYPTONITE, I HAD JUST ENOUGH STRENGTH TO SWITCH COSTUMES WITH YOU! I FIGURED THAT WAY, YOU WOULD DO THE JOB I NO LONGER HAD THE POWER TO PERFORM, ACE!

WHEN I REALIZED WHAT HAPPENED, I WAS AFRAID THE EXPLOSIVE WOULD GO OFF AND DESTROY ME ALONG WITH METROPOLIS... ALL I COULD THINK OF WAS TO STOP IT!



I FIGURED THAT'S HOW YOU'D REACT! AND SINCE KRYPTONITE HAS NO EFFECT ON ORDINARY HUMANS, YOU COULD GET FREE OF YOUR BONDS! YOU KNEW WHERE THE EXPLOSIVE WAS HIDDEN, SO YOU HAD NO TROUBLE FINDING IT, AS I WOULD HAVE!

ACE KNEW HOW TO TURN IT OFF -- HE DIDN'T HAVE TO SEE THROUGH LEAD!



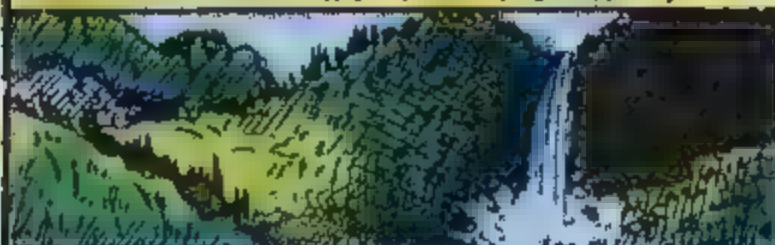
THEN...THEN YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY NEW POWERS, SUPERMAN!

TRUE--BUT THE OLD ONES SEEM GOOD ENOUGH TO DEFEAT CROOKS AND PUT THEM IN PRISON--WHICH IS WHERE YOU'RE HEADED NOW!

The End

QUICK QUIZ

WHICH IS THE HIGHEST WATERFALL IN THE WORLD?



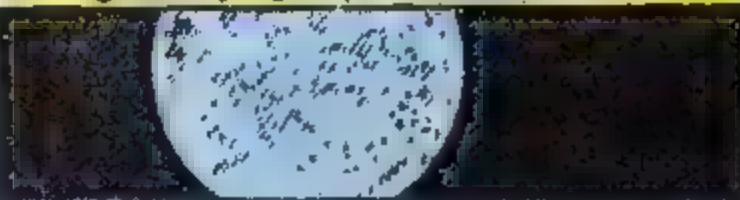
YOSEMITE FALLS, CAL.! FROM THE TOP OF THE CLIFF TO THE CANYON FLOOR IS A DROP OF 2600 FEET. 16 TIMES HIGHER THAN NIAGARA!

HOW MANY PARTS ARE THERE IN THE AVERAGE AUTOMOBILE?



ABOUT **15,000** DIFFERENT PARTS!

WHAT ARE THE MARKS AND SPOTS SEEN BY THE NAKED EYE UPON THE SURFACE OF THE MOON?



THESE MARKS ARE CAUSED BY THE ROUGHNESS OF THE MOON'S TERRAIN.... THE DRY OCEAN BEDS AND THE NUMEROUS EXTINCT VOLCANIC CRATERS!

HOW DO BATS SEE AT NIGHT?

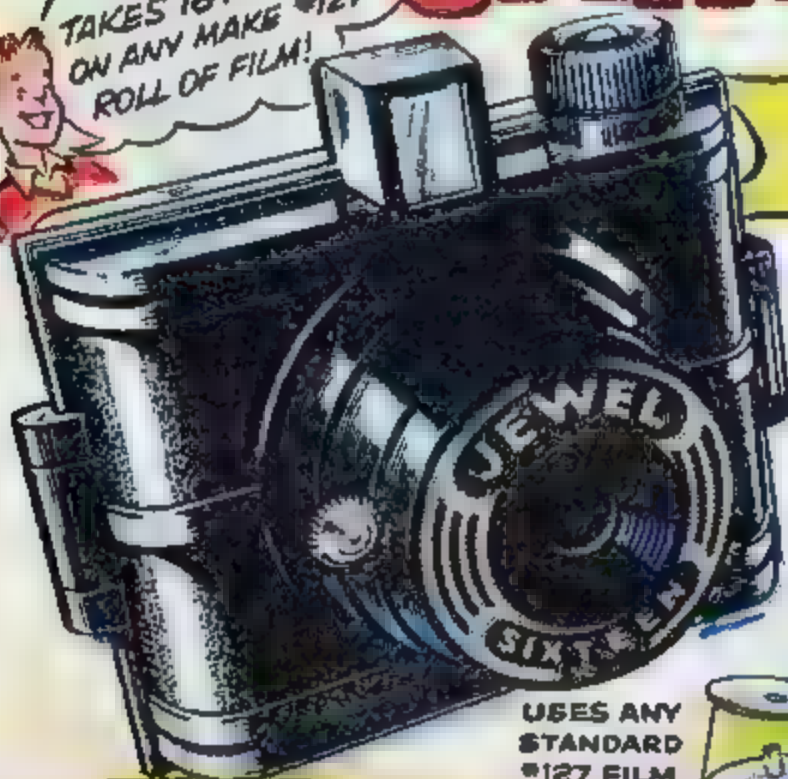


FLYING IN DARKNESS, BATS EMIT CONSTANT HIGH PITCHED CRIES WHICH ARE REFLECTED FROM OBSTACLES BEFORE THEM, THUS GUIDING THEIR WAY!

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NAME _____ (Please print in pencil)

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

Binky

says: **"KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY!"**

LOOK AT THESE HEADLINES: "JUVENILE DELINQUENCY ON RISE"; "FIRE SWEEPS CONDEMNED BUILDING"; "MANY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE NEED HELP!" WHAT KIND OF A TOWN IS THIS ANYWAY? FOR TWO CENTS, I'D JUST MOVE AWAY.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, JOE? YOU LOOK PRETTY BLUE.

WELL, MY FATHER'S WORRIED ABOUT THE WAY WHEN HE SEES HEADLINES LIKE THESE, I DON'T WANT TO MOVE, BINKY—I LIKE IT HERE.

HMMM... WHY DON'T WE FIND OUT WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT? MAYBE WE CAN GET OUR TEACHER TO ORGANIZE A CLASS GROUP...

THAT'S AN IDEA THEN, WE CAN TALK TO THE PEOPLE WHO REALLY KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON!

AND SO...

YES, MORE BOYS AND GIRLS IN OUR TOWN, AS IN OTHER TOWNS, BROKE THE LAW LAST YEAR. WE'RE TRYING OUR BEST TO HELP GET THEM STRAIGHTENED OUT. YOU CAN HELP, TOO, BY OBEYING THE LAW YOURSELVES AND HELPING YOUR FRIENDS TO **THINK** BEFORE THEY **ACT**.

HERE'S WHERE THE NEW HOUSES ARE TO BE BUILT TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THE OLD ONES THAT WEREN'T SAFE TO LIVE IN. ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TOWNS LIKE OURS ARE WORKING TO SEE THAT PEOPLE HAVE BETTER PLACES TO LIVE IN!

EVERY TOWN HAS MORE HANDICAPPED PEOPLE NOW. WE MUST TRY TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS AND SEE THAT OUR CITIZENS KNOW HOW TO TAKE BETTER CARE OF THEIR HEALTH. WE'VE LICKED A LOT OF DISEASES THAT USED TO BE VERY DANGEROUS—AND WE CAN LICK THOSE TOO IF EVERYBODY HELPS.

I'M GOING TO TELL MY DAD ABOUT ALL THE THINGS WE LEARNED, BINKY. WHEN HE KNOWS PEOPLE IN OUR TOWN ARE WORKING HARD TO MAKE THINGS BETTER, I THINK HE'LL WANT TO STAY HERE AND HELP.

I BET HE WILL, JOE. IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY SO YOU CAN LEARN WHAT IT **NEEDS** TO MAKE THINGS BETTER. THAT'S BEING A GOOD CITIZEN.

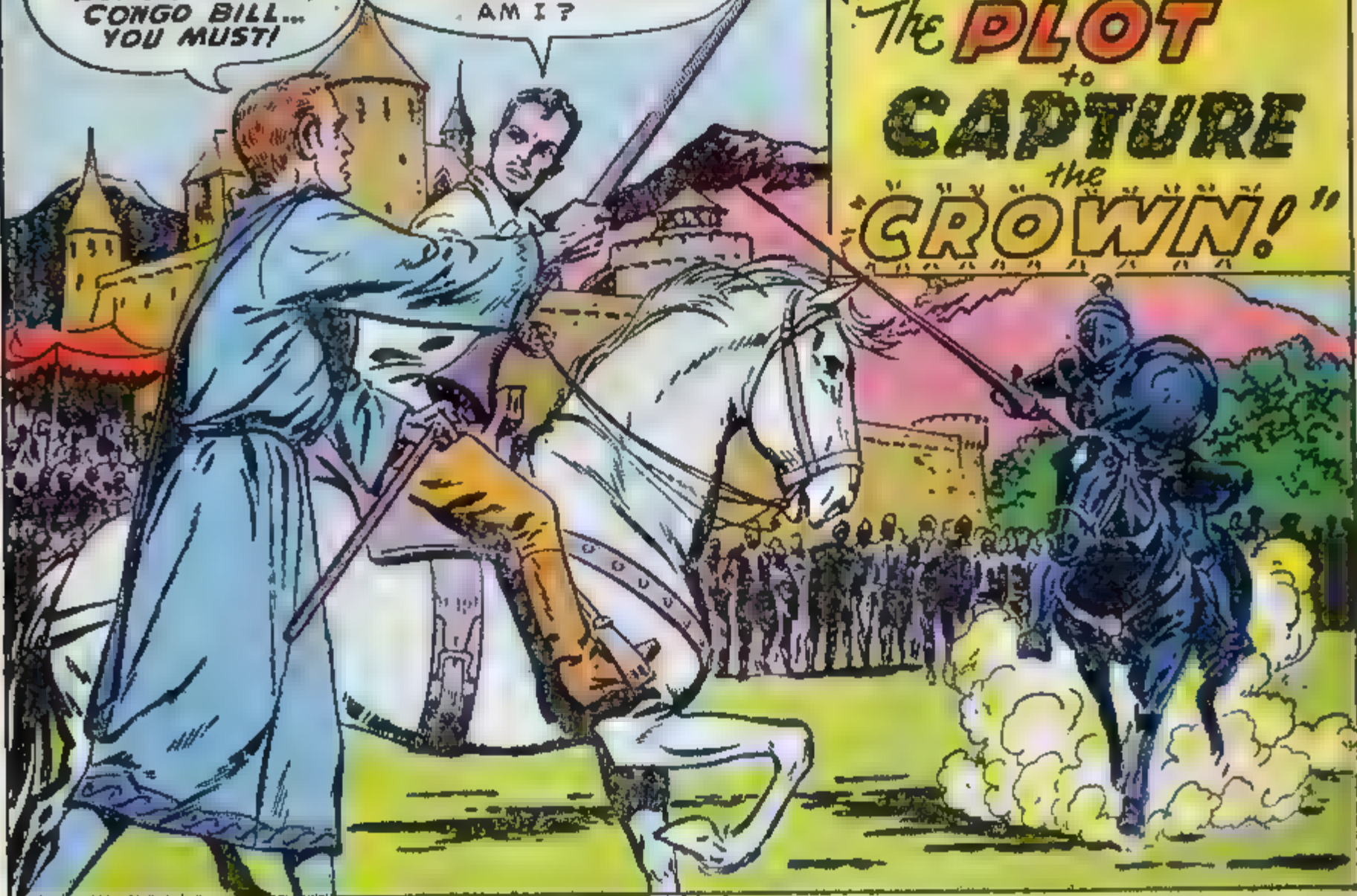
CONGO BILL

YOU MUST STOP THE
BLACK KNIGHT,
CONGO BILL...
YOU MUST!

I'D---ER---LIKE TO,
PRINCE HAROLD, BUT I'M
NOT EXACTLY WEARING
THE PROPER EQUIPMENT,
AM I?

THE FAMOUS ADVENTURER
HAS KEPT UP WITH EVERY
MODERN DEVICE IN HIS FIGHT
AGAINST THE ENEMIES OF
JUSTICE. BUT NOW HE FINDS
MODERN METHODS OF NO
USE AT A CENTURIES' OLD
CORONATION, AS HE TRIES
TO FOIL...

"The **PLOT**
+
CAPTURE
the
CROWN!"



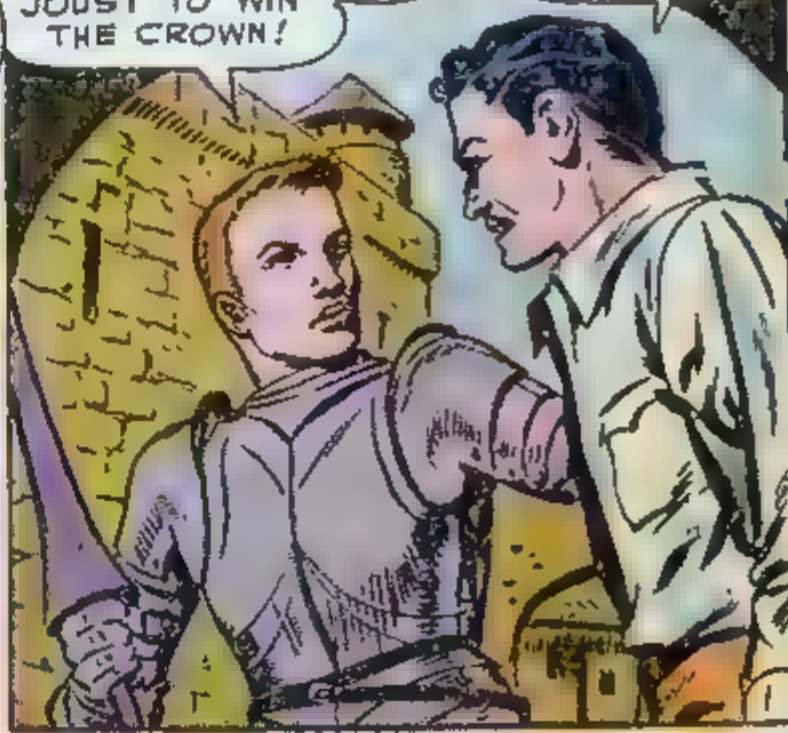
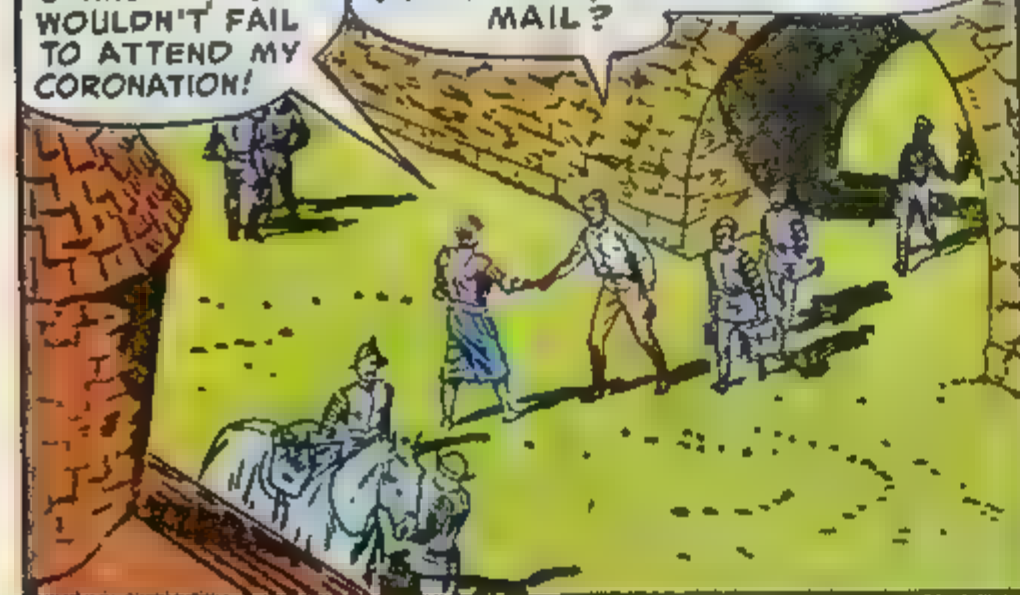
IT IS CORONATION TIME IN GRAUSTADT, A TINY
KINGDOM IN SOUTH EUROPE, WHERE **CONGO BILL**
ARRIVES ON A VISIT TO A YOUNG FRIEND IN THE
PALACE...

WELCOME, INDEED
WELCOME,
CONGO BILL...
I KNEW YOU
WOULDN'T FAIL
TO ATTEND MY
CORONATION!

I WAS SORRY ABOUT THE DEATH
OF YOUR FATHER, BUT, AS THE
SAYING GOES, "THE KING IS DEAD,
LONG LIVE THE KING"---MEANING
YOU! BUT, WHY THE COAT OF
MAIL?

OH, YOU WOULDN'T KNOW,
WOULD YOU? BEFORE I
CAN ASCEND THE THRONE,
I MUST ENGAGE IN A
JOUST TO WIN
THE CROWN!

AN OLD-TIME
JOUST?
YOU'RE
KIDDING!



NOT AT ALL... IT'S PART OF MY COUNTRY'S TRADITION THAT THE PRINCE MUST PROVE HE IS THE BRAVEST AND STRONGEST MAN IN THE KINGDOM BEFORE HE CAN BECOME ITS RULER! IT'S ALL DOWN HERE IN THE "GRAUSTADT BOOK OF LAWS & TRADITIONS!"

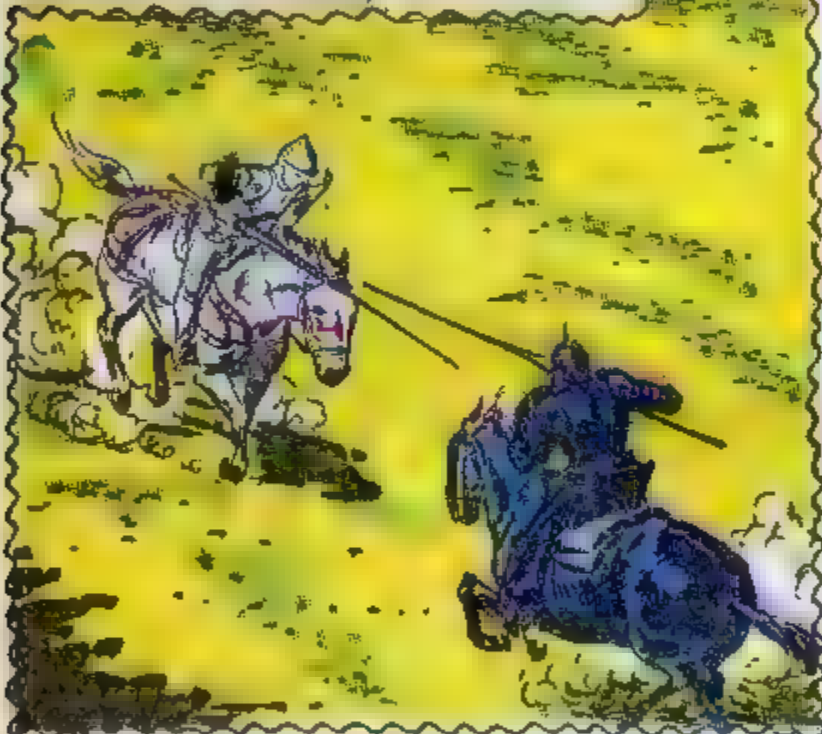


"THE TRADITION GOES BACK 500 YEARS TO THE CORONATION OF OUR FIRST KING..."

SOUND THE HORNS! SIR GELWYN AND SIR ARNALT ARE READY FOR THE JOUST... AND THE VICTOR WILL BE OUR SOVEREIGN!

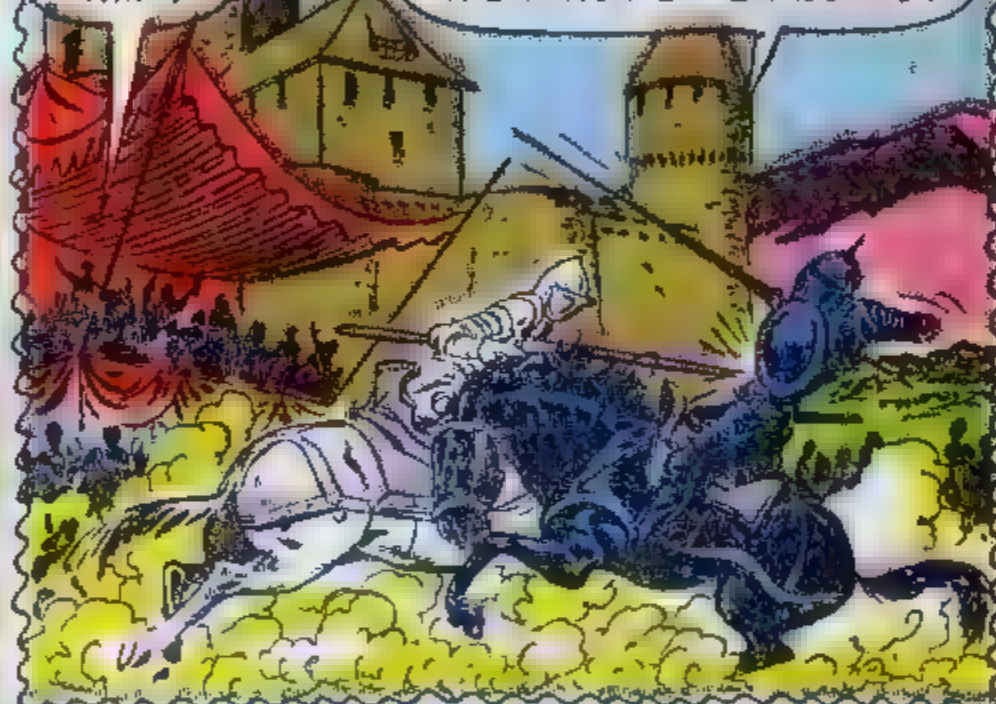


"BUGLES BLARED, AND THEN..."



GELWYN WINS!

ALL HAIL GELWYN, FIRST MONARCH OF GRAUSTADT!



BUT--- BUT THAT WAS ALL RIGHT 500 YEARS AGO, PRINCE HAROLD! NOT IN MODERN TIMES! WHY, YOU COULD GET KILLED!

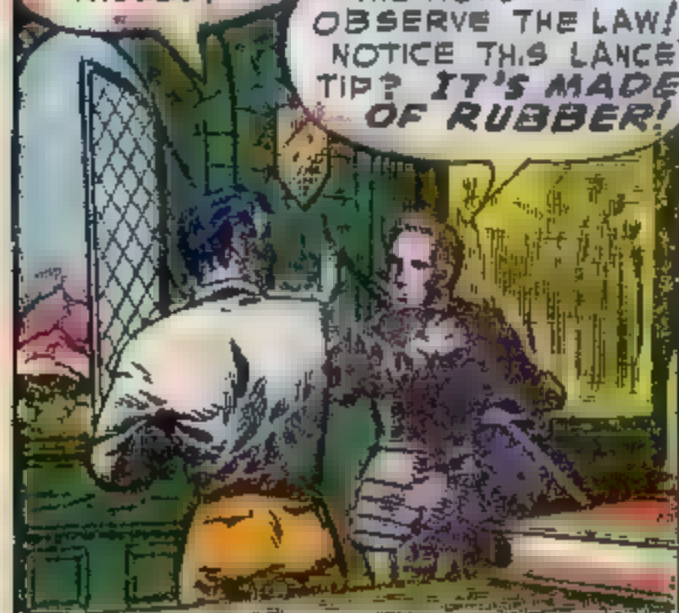
NOT REALLY, BILL... YOU SEE, WE **DON'T** ACTUALLY JOUST... WE JUST GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS TO OBSERVE THE LAW! NOTICE THIS LANCE'S TIP? IT'S MADE OF RUBBER!

WHO'S THE **KNIGHT** IN THE COURT-YARD!

GALLO HALEVY, THE FINEST JOUSTER IN THE LAND! HE WAS PICKED TO BE THE **BLACK KNIGHT** IN THE CONTEST BY FLOREZ, OUR PRIME MINISTER!

MM, I SEE... BUT SOMETHING IS WRONG HERE, PRINCE... VERY WRONG!

WHY, WHAT DO YOU MEAN, BILL?



YOU ARE USING A RUBBER TIP ON YOUR LANCE, PRINCE, BUT HALEVY'S POINT IS **COLD STEEL!** I NOTICED IT WHEN HE THREW IT TO THE GROUND, AND IT STRUCK A STONE, CAUSING SPARKS TO FLY!

THEN... THEN FLOREZ MUST HAVE BRIBED HALEVY TO... TO DEFEAT ME AT THE JOUST! BUT, WHY DOES HALEVY USE A REAL LANCE IN TRAINING, AND TAKE THE CHANCE OF GIVING HIMSELF AWAY?

HE MUST GET USED TO THE HEAVIER WEIGHT OF STEEL, SO HIS AIM WILL BE SHARP IN THE JOUST! BESIDES, YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE KNOWN ABOUT IT IF THE LANCE HADN'T ACCIDENTALLY STRUCK THAT STONE!

BUT WHY WORRY? ACCORDING TO THE RULES, YOU CAN CHOOSE SOMEONE ELSE TO FIGHT... SOMEONE YOU CAN TRUST!

THAT'S JUST IT, **CONGO BILL**... ONCE THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE, NO CHANGES ARE ALLOWED! AND IF HE BEATS ME, AS HE WILL... THEN HALEVY WILL BE THE **NEW KING OF GRAUSTADT!**

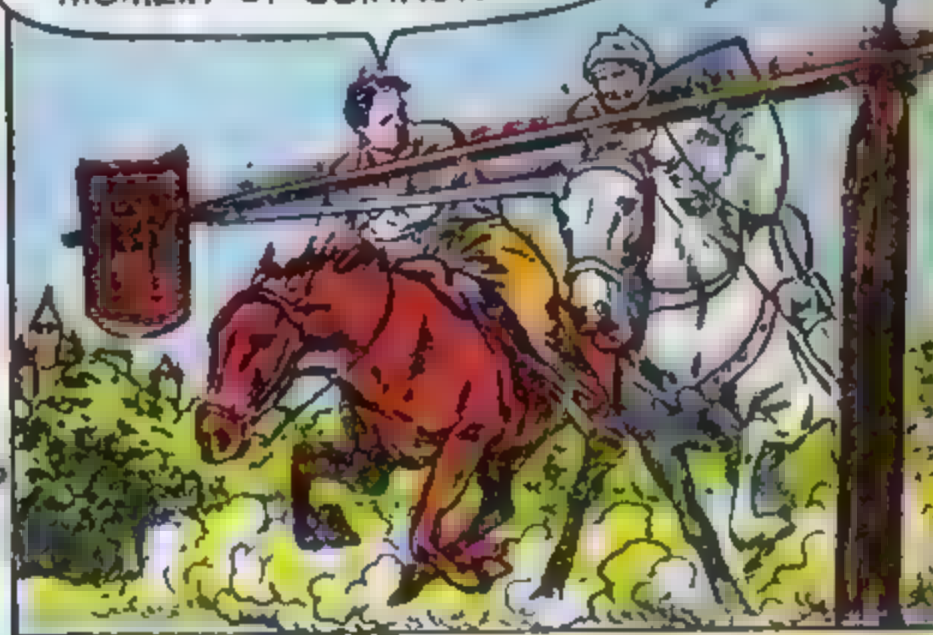


IN THAT CASE, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO... I WILL TRAIN YOU FOR THE JOUST!

WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME. THE CONTEST IS ONLY A WEEK AWAY... BUT I'M WILLING TO TRY!

THUS, IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW... THAT'S IT, PRINCE HAROLD... LEAN TO THE LEFT JUST BEFORE THE MOMENT OF CONTACT!

LIKE THIS?

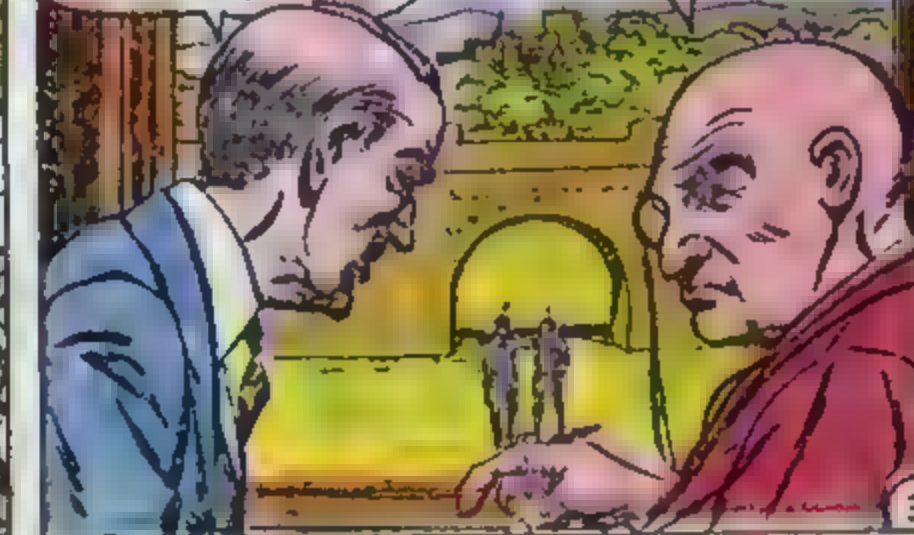


FINALLY, ON THE DAY BEFORE THE CONTEST...

WELL, PRINCE HAROLD, YOU'RE PERFECT! FRANKLY, I THINK YOU'VE GOT A BETTER CHANCE TO BEAT THE **BLACK KNIGHT!**

THANKS TO YOU, BILL! THAT MEDDLER, **CONGO BILL**, HAS TURNED PRINCE HAROLD INTO AN EXCELLENT JOUSTER, FLOREZ!

YES, CAPABLE OF BEATING HALEVY! BUT I CANNOT LET THAT HAPPEN! LISTEN... I HAVE A PLAN!

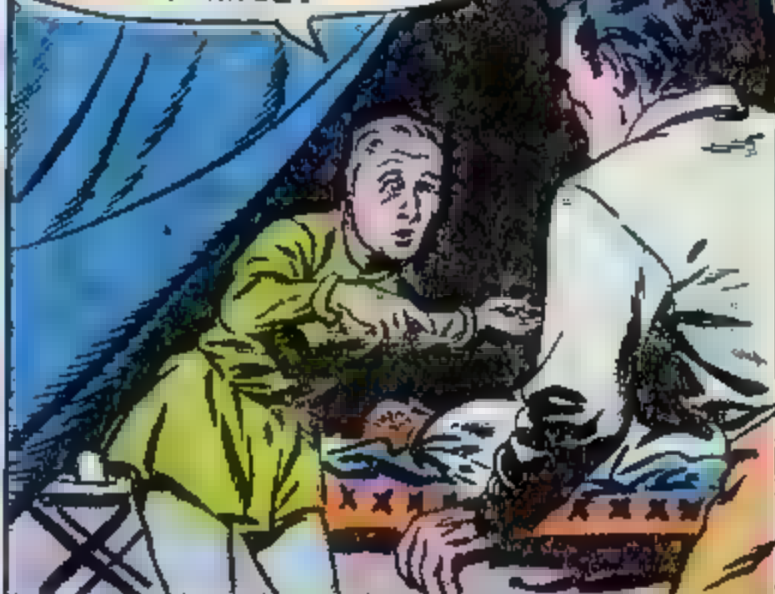


NEXT DAY, BANNERS ARE UNFURLED, AND THOUSANDS GATHER TO THRILL AT THE GREAT TRADITIONAL CONTEST...



BUT, IN THE TENT OF PRINCE HAROLD, A DREADFUL SITUATION HAS DEVELOPED...

QUICKLY, CONGO BILL...
SOMETHING IS WRONG!
I CANNOT AWAKEN THE
PRINCE!



WAKE UP,
PRINCE
HAROLD!
WAKE
UP!

MM... THE MILK
HE DRANK... IT
WAS DRUGGED!
KEEP SHAKING
HIM!



THEN, ONLY SCANT MINUTES
BEFORE THE CONTEST IS TO
START...

WHA...WHAT HAPPENED?
I---I FEEL SO WEAK
AND DIZZY, I CAN
HARDLY SIT
UP!



YOU CAN'T
JOLST IN
THIS CONDITION,
PRINCE! THE
CONTEST MUST
BE POSTPONED!

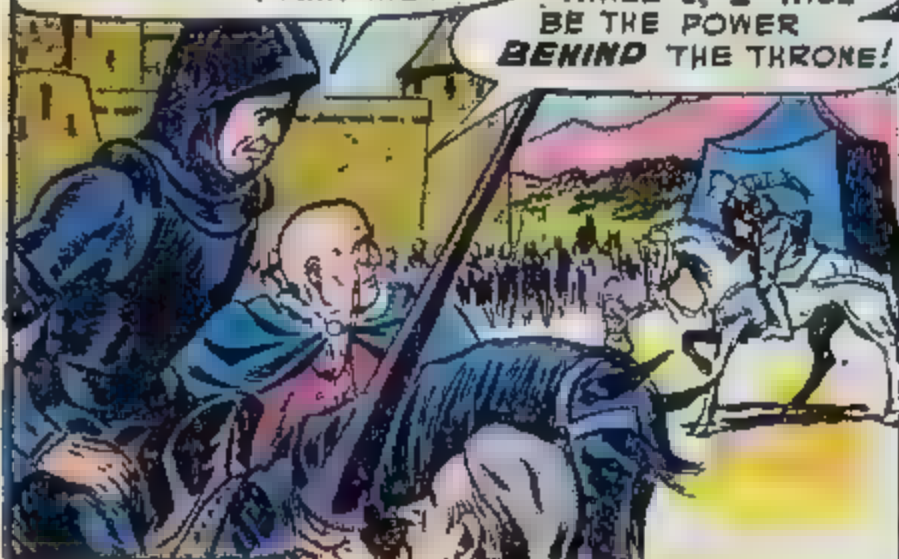
YOU---YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND,
CONGO BILL! IT---IT CANNOT
BE POSTPONED! IF I FAIL TO
APPEAR, THEN---THEN HALEVY
IS DECLARED THE WINNER,
AND---AND THE KING!
SO---SO I MUST TRY,
I MUST!



MINUTES LATER, WHEN THE TRADITIONAL
CEREMONY BEGINS...

HA, HA... LOOK AT HAROLD...
HE'S SO WEAK HE CAN
HARDLY SIT IN HIS SADDLE...
LET ALONE FIGHT ME!

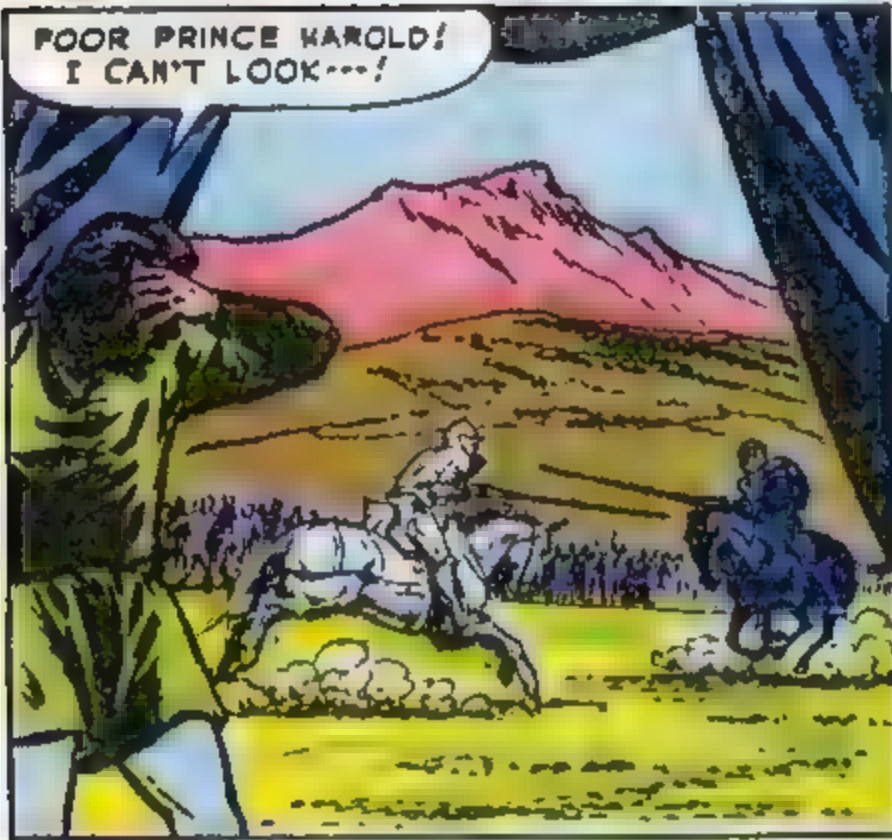
YES, YES...AND
SOON, YOU, GALLO
HALEVY, WILL BE
NAMED THE KING...
WHILE I, I WILL
BE THE POWER
BEHIND THE THRONE!



AT LENGTH, THE SIGNAL TO BEGIN: TRUMPETS SOUND!

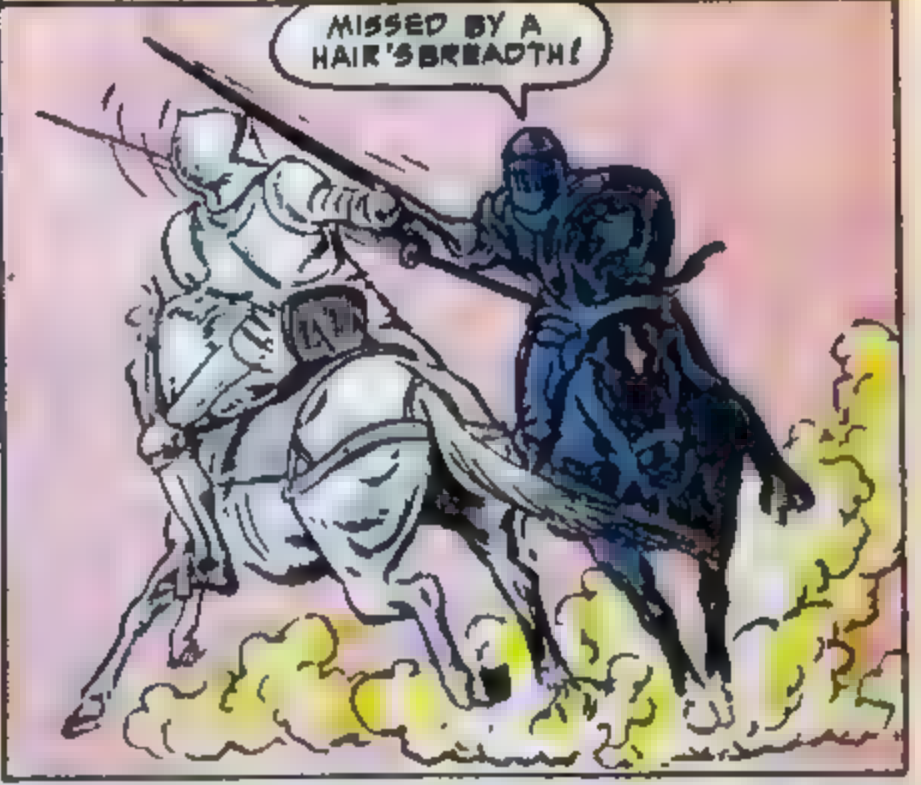


POOR PRINCE HAROLD!
I CAN'T LOOK----



BUT, THE WHITE KNIGHT DISPLAYS AMAZING AGILITY!

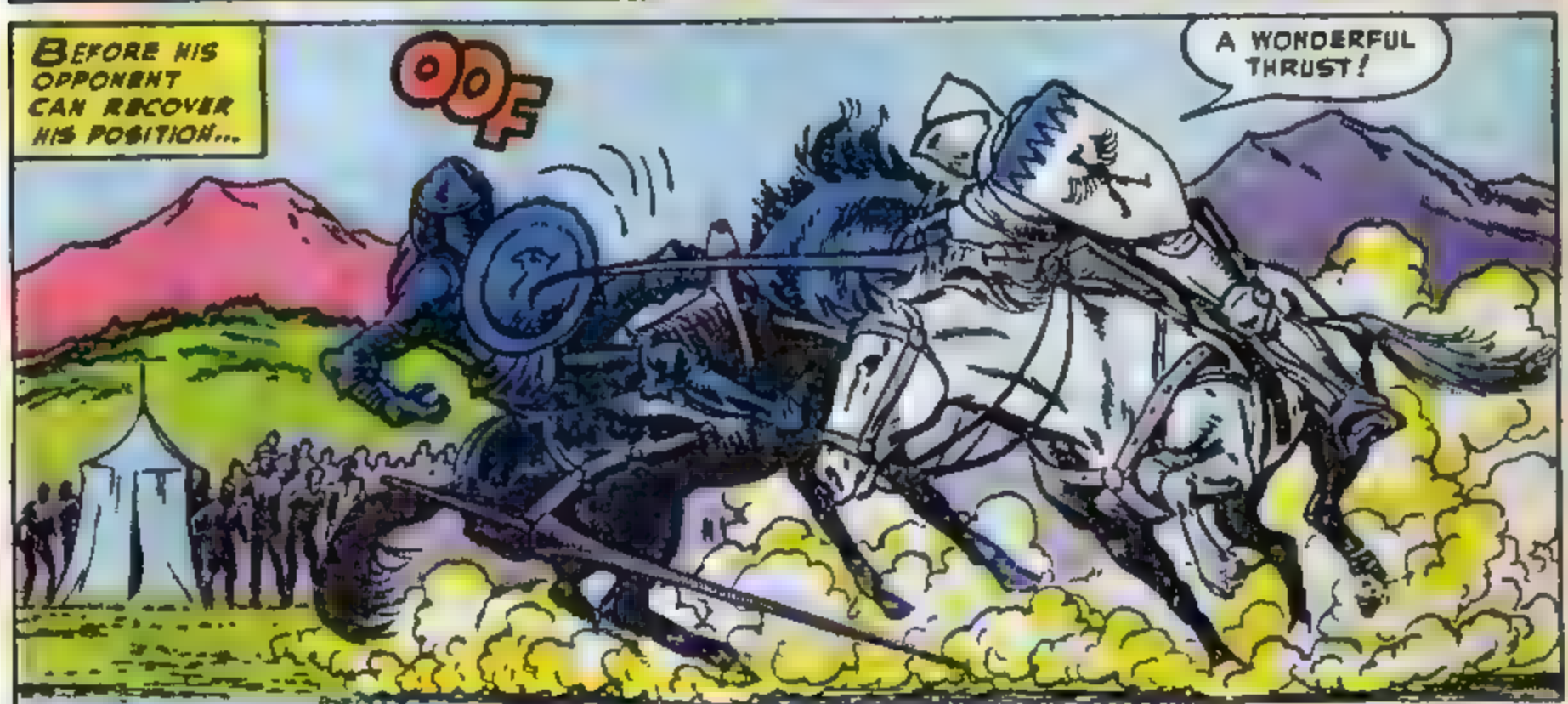
MISSED BY A
HAIR'S BREADTH!



BEFORE HIS
OPPONENT
CAN RECOVER
HIS POSITION...

OOOF

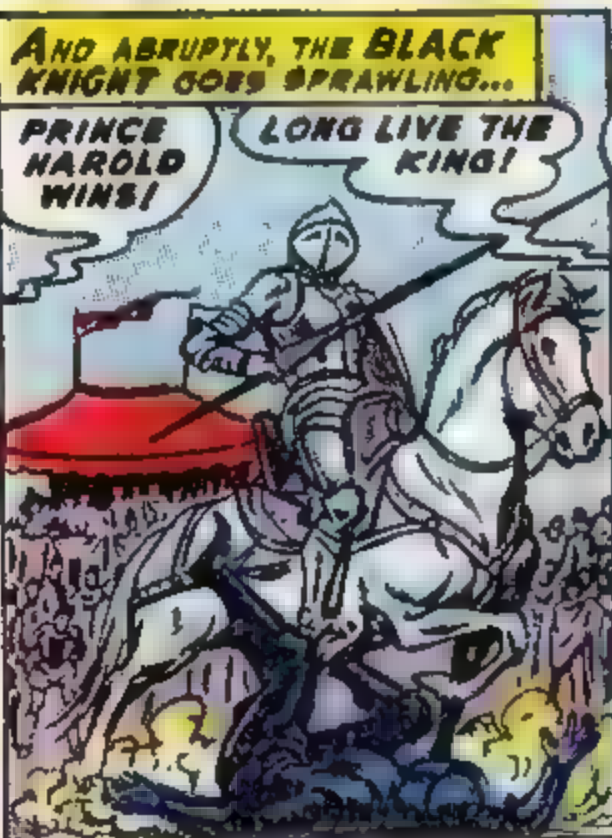
A WONDERFUL
THRUST!



AND ABRUPTLY, THE BLACK
KNIGHT GOES SPRAWLING...

PRINCE
HAROLD
WINS!

LONG LIVE THE
KING!



BUT...

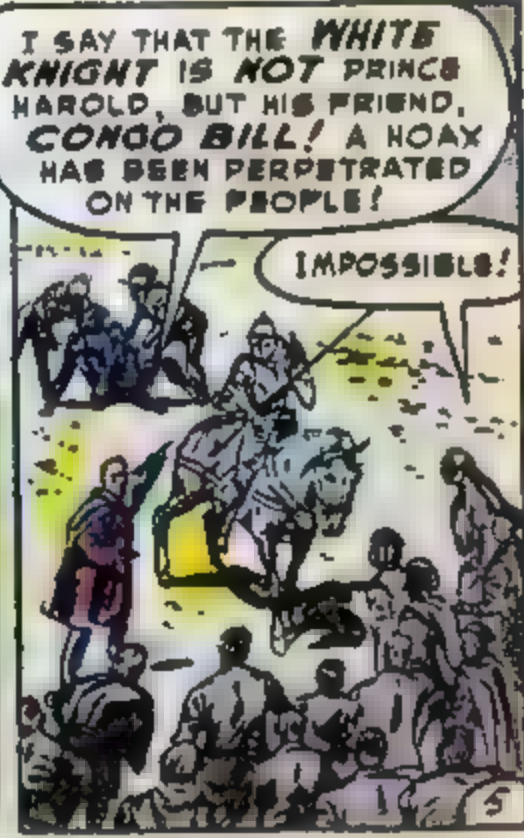
FRAUD!
FRAUD! PRINCE
HAROLD HAS
TRICKED US!

ARE YOU MAD?
WHAT DO YOU
SAY?



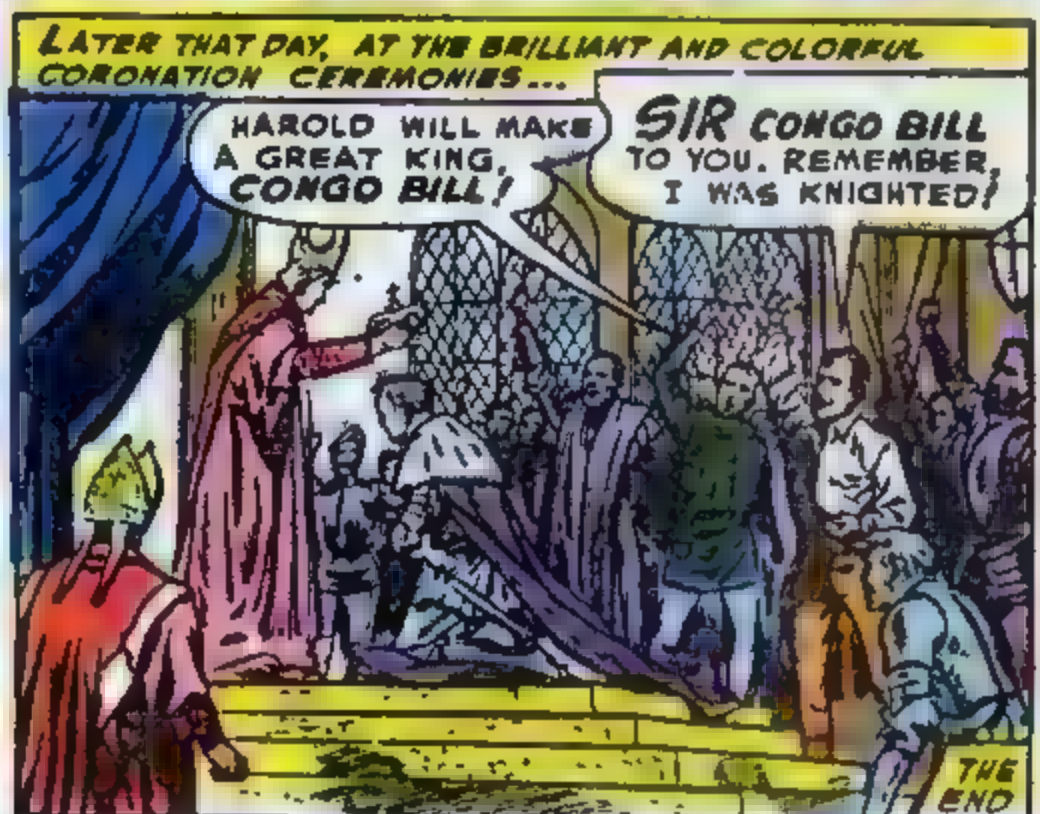
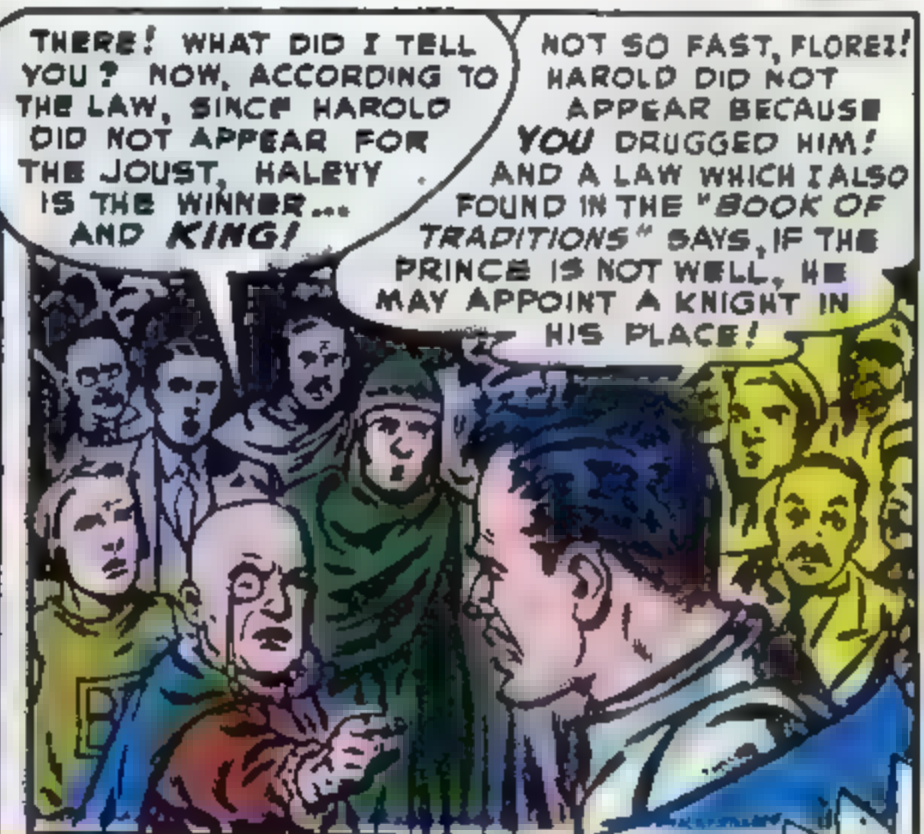
I SAY THAT THE WHITE
KNIGHT IS NOT PRINCE
HAROLD, BUT HIS FRIEND,
CONGO BILL! A HOAX
HAS BEEN PERPETRATED
ON THE PEOPLE!

IMPOSSIBLE!





ACTION COMICS



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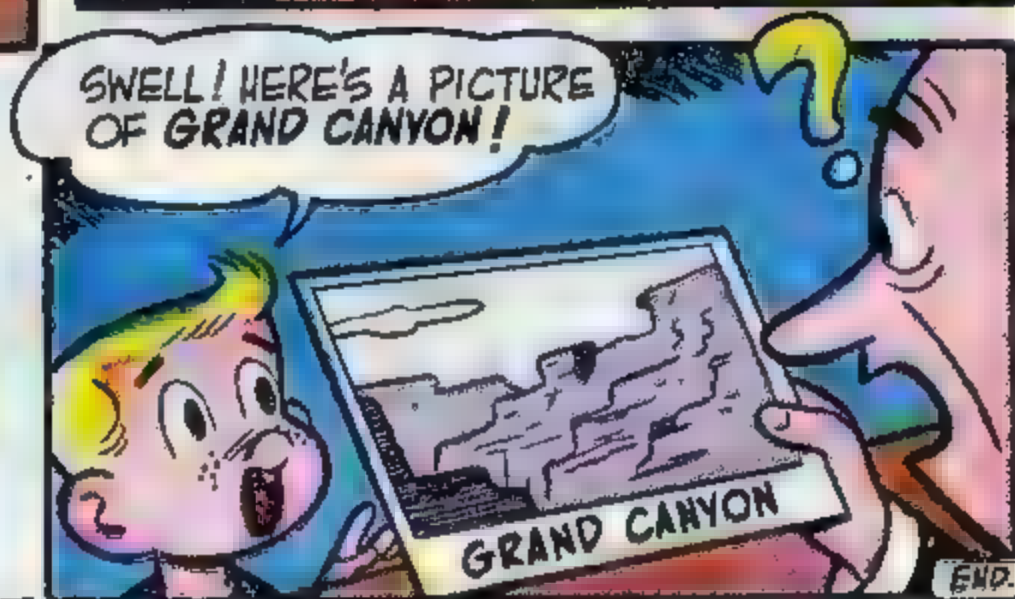
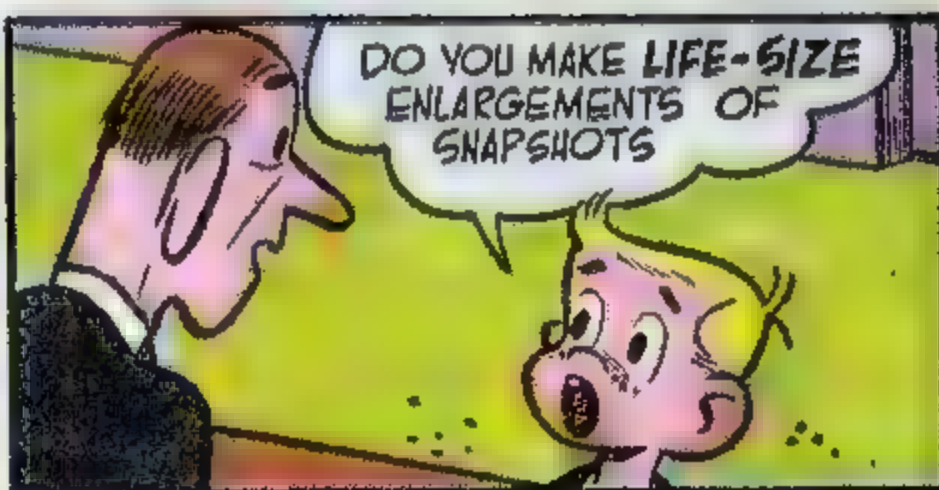
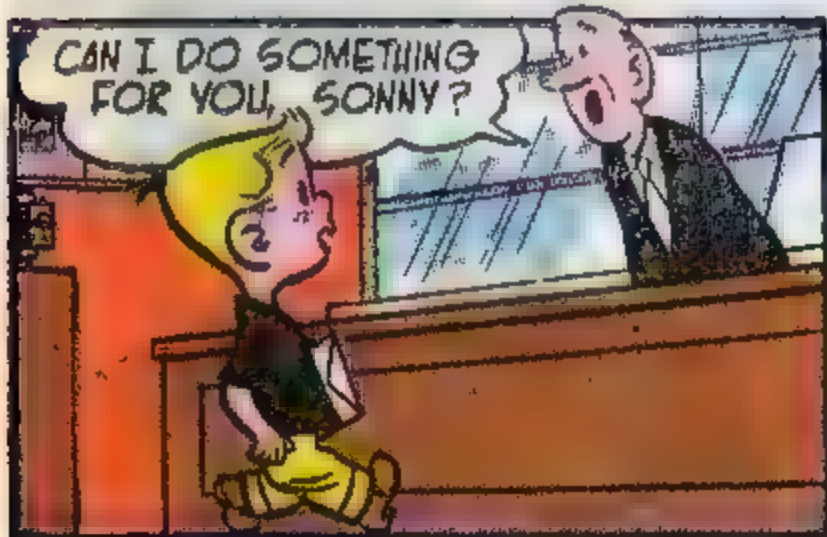
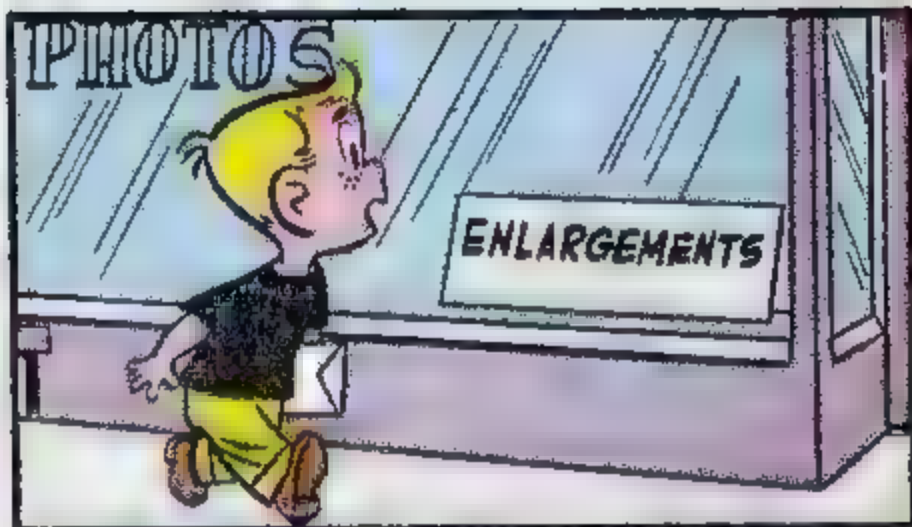
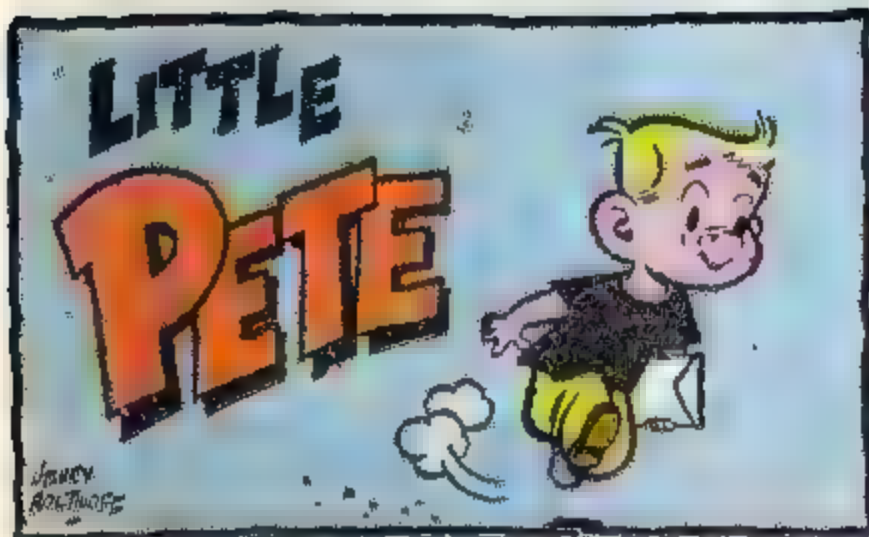
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HERE'S HOWIE
HOUSE OF MYSTERY
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SUPERMEN OF AMERICA

SUPERMAN'S SECRET MESSAGE

(Code Mercury No. 1)

JG ZPV UIJOL TBGF BOE
BDU TBGF JO ZPVS EB-
JMZ BDUJWJUJFT, ZPV-
MM CF TBGF BOE BWPJE
BDDJEFEUT.

SUPERMAN,
c/o ACTION COMICS
480 LEXINGTON AVENUE, N. Y. C. 17, N. Y.

Dear Superman:

Please enroll me as a Member of the SUPERMEN of AMERICA. I enclose 10c to cover cost of mailing. It is understood that I am to receive my Membership Certificate, Emblem and Superman Code.

NAME..... AGE.....

STREET ADDRESS.....

CITY..... ZONE..... STATE.....

DEC

Tommy TOMORROW

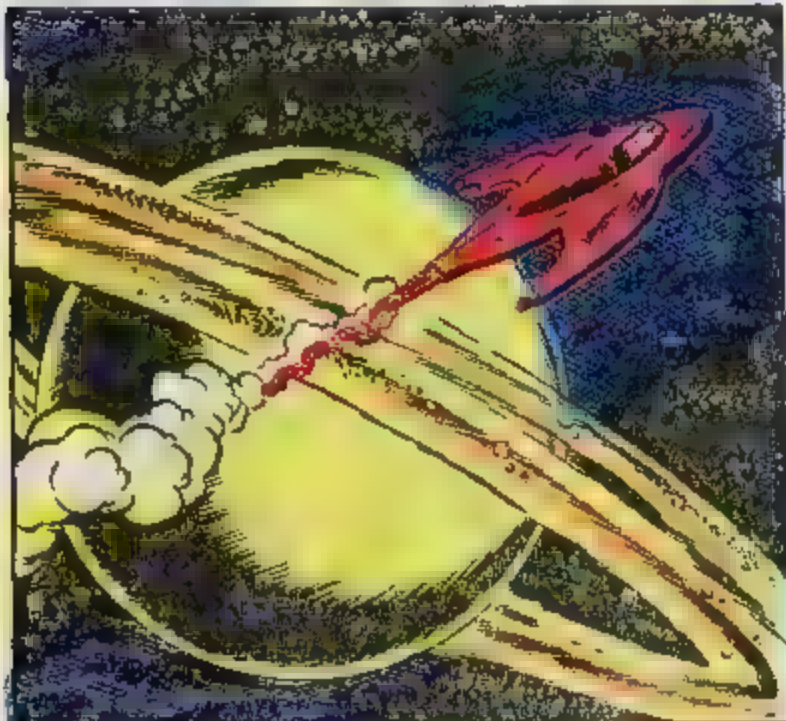
FROM OUTER SPACE, MANY DANGEROUS THINGS HAVE COME TO THE WORLD OF TOMORROW -- MENACING METEORS, COLLIDING COMETS, AND ALIEN INVADERS WITH THREATS OF DOOM! BUT NOW, FROM THE COSMIC VOID COME SURPRISE TREASURES FOR THE MEN OF EARTH! AND ONLY **TOMMY TOMORROW** OF THE **PLANETEERS** SUSPECTS THE DREAD PERIL OF...

"THE GIFTS FROM SPACE!"

DON'T GO INTO THAT ALIEN SHIP!

PAY NO ATTENTION TO **TOMMY TOMORROW**! HE ONLY WANTS THE TREASURES FROM SPACE FOR HIMSELF!

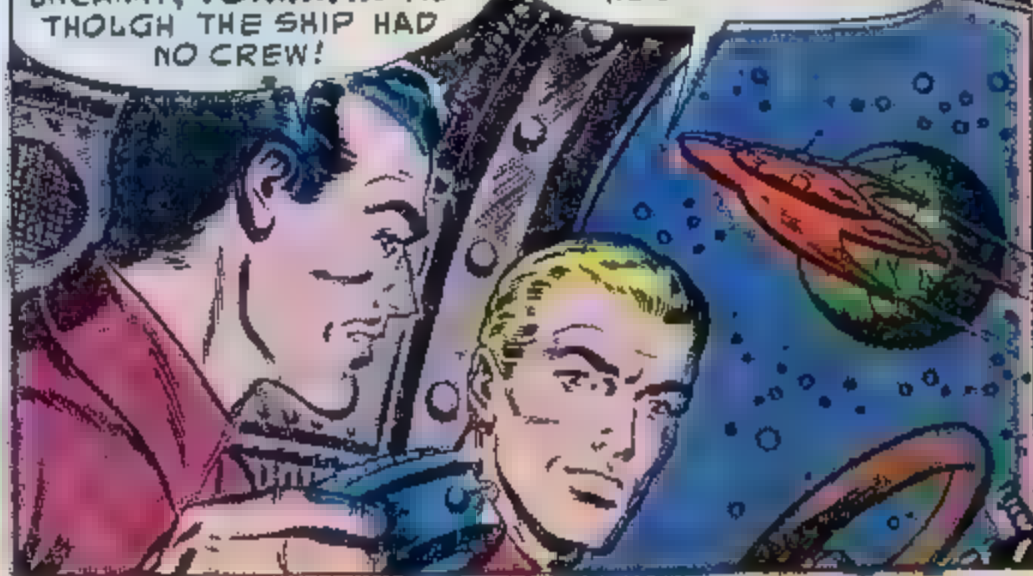
OUT OF THE UNKNOWN DEPTHS OF INTER-STELLAR SPACE FLASHES A MYSTERIOUS INTRUDER INTO OUR SOLAR SYSTEM...



WHEN DANGER THREATENS, IT IS THE SIGNAL FOR ACE PLANETEER COLONEL **TOMMY TOMORROW** AND HIS AIDE, BRENT WOOD, TO TRY AND MAKE CONTACT WITH THE ALIEN CRAFT...

IT DOESN'T ACKNOWLEDGE OUR RADIO CALLS! IT'S UNCANNY, **TOMMY**... AS THOUGH THE SHIP HAD NO CREW!

IT'S HEADING DIRECTLY FOR EARTH! WE'LL KEEP WATCHING FOR ANY HOSTILE MOVE!





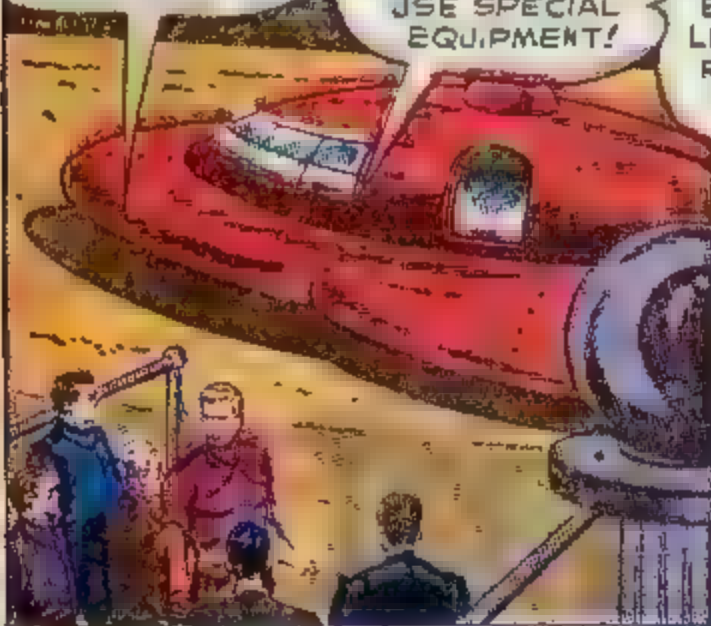
ACTION COMICS



SILENTLY, THE MYSTERY CRAFT LANDS ON AN EARTH SPACEPORT! ITS DOORS OPEN, AND THEN...

NOBODY HAS COME OUT OF IT! WE'LL GO IN AND SEE WHO THEY ARE!

THERE MAY BE DANGER INSIDE THAT SHIP, SIR! LET ME EXAMINE IT FIRST... I'LL USE SPECIAL EQUIPMENT!



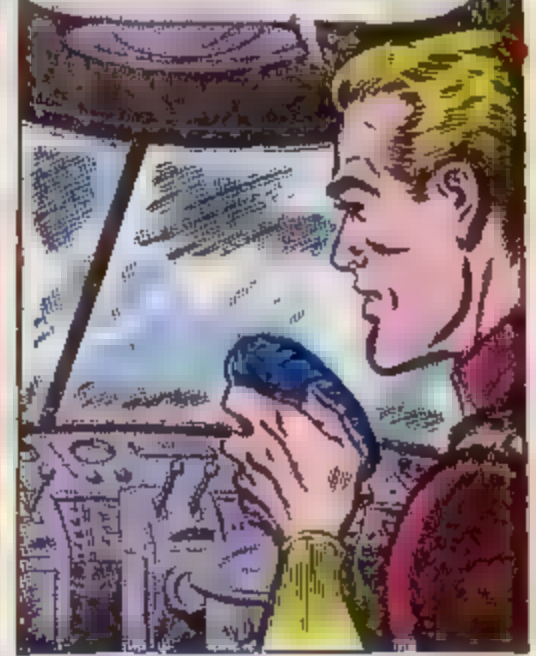
ARMED WITH 21ST CENTURY SCIENCE, A LONE PLANETEER EXPLORES THE UNKNOWN...

THE VACUUM-TYPE DETECTOR HE CARRIES CAN DISCOVER HIDDEN BOOBY-TRAPS! LISTEN, HE'S REPORTING BY PERSONAL RADIO!

NO SOUND FROM INSIDE! I'M GOING ON IN...

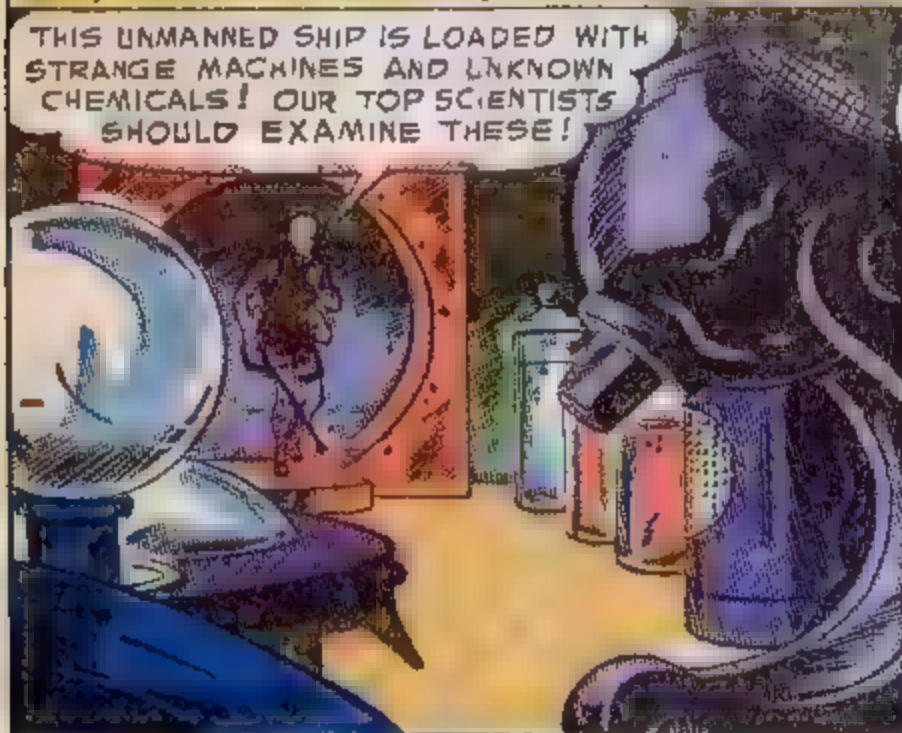


I'M NOW IN THE PILOT-ROOM, AND THERE'S NO ONE HERE! THIS SHIP WAS PILOTED TO EARTH BY AUTOMATIC CONTROLS! APPARENTLY THERE IS NO LIVING CREATURE ABOARD!



BUT, EXPLORING THE HOLD, A STARTLING DISCOVERY

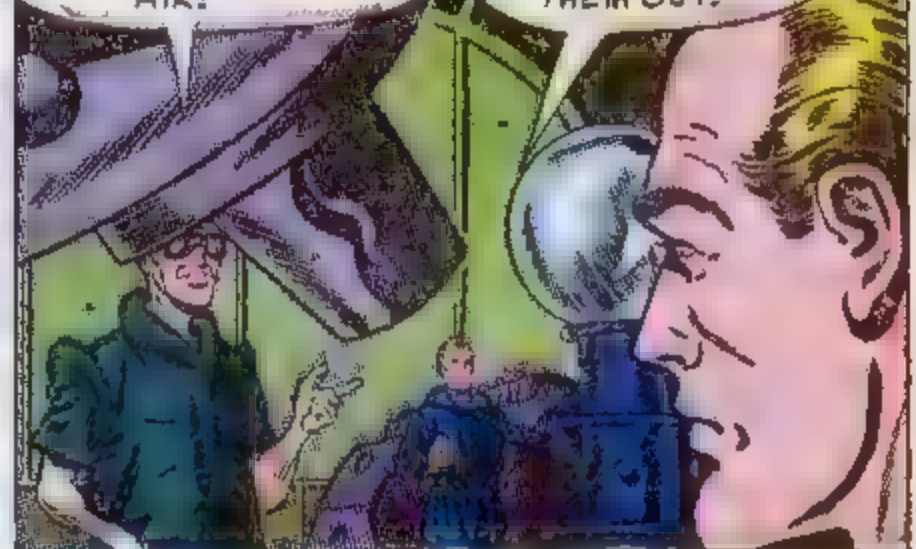
THIS UNMANNED SHIP IS LOADED WITH STRANGE MACHINES AND UNKNOWN CHEMICALS! OUR TOP SCIENTISTS SHOULD EXAMINE THESE!



SCIENTIFIC EXAMINATION BRINGS ANOTHER REVELATION...

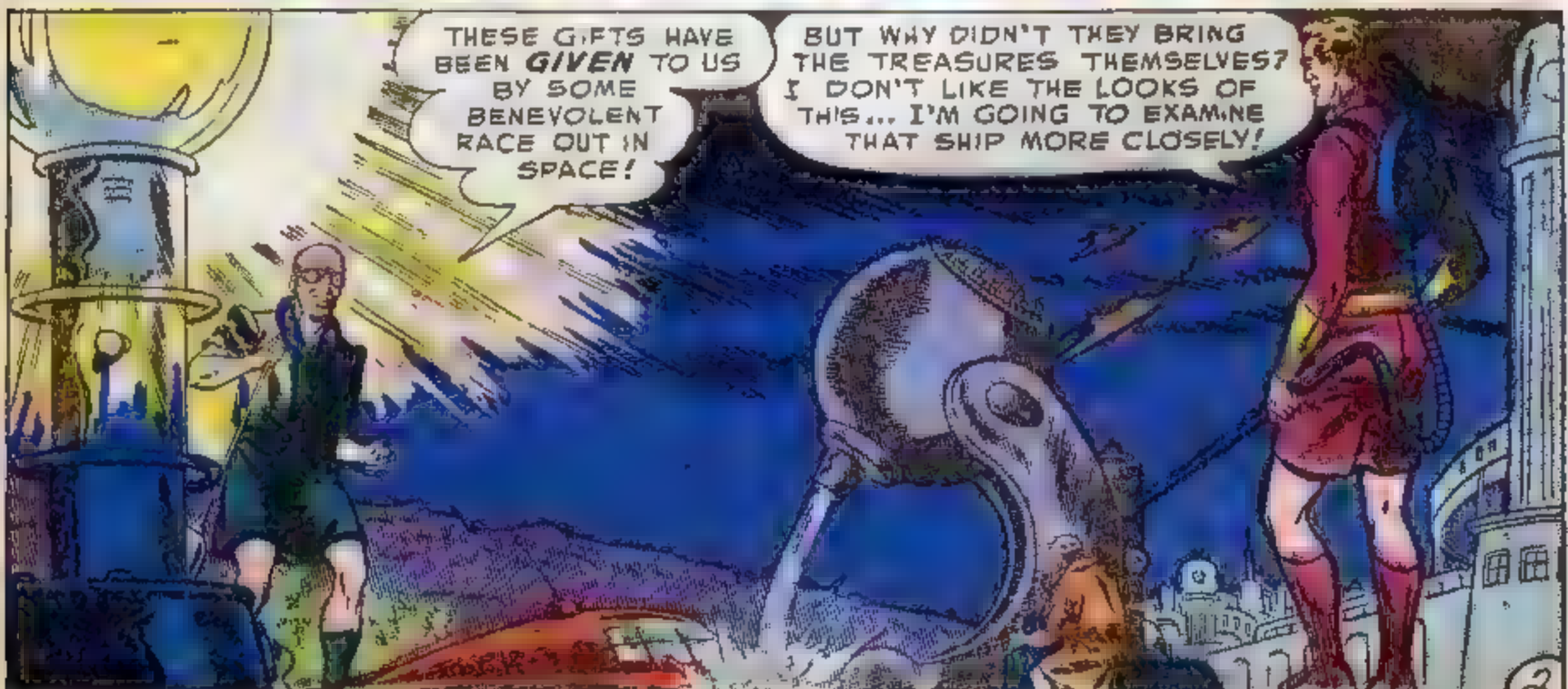
THERE'S NO DANGER IN THIS MACHINE... IT'S A CLEVER DEVICE FOR MAKING WATER FROM AIR!

AND THIS GADGET PRODUCES **SUPER-LIGHT**! THESE ARE TREASURES FROM SPACE... WE'LL TRY THEM OUT!



THESE GIFTS HAVE BEEN **GIVEN** TO US BY SOME BENEVOLENT RACE OUT IN SPACE!

BUT WHY DIDN'T THEY BRING THE TREASURES THEMSELVES? I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS... I'M GOING TO EXAMINE THAT SHIP MORE CLOSELY!





BUT AS TOMMY T. TROW STARTS TO RE-ENTER THE MYSTERY CRAFT...

IT'S TAKING OFF INTO SPACE! LOOK OUT, TOMMY!

ITS AUTOMATIC CONTROLS ARE OPERATING IT!

THAT PROVES ITS VISIT WAS BENEVOLENT... IT BROUGHT US THESE GREAT GIFTS, AND ONCE WE HAD TAKEN THEM OUT OF THE SHIP, IT AUTOMATICALLY STARTED HOME AGAIN!

MAYBE I'M WRONG, BUT I'M NOT SATISFIED WITH THAT EXPLANATION! BUT IT'S GOT TOO MUCH OF A START NOW FOR US TO FOLLOW IT!

THE EXCITEMENT HAS STILL NOT SUBSIDED WHEN DAYS LATER, THE CRYPTIC CRAFT RETURNS...

THE GIFT SHIP... IT'S COME AGAIN!

CALL THE OFFICIALS... THEY'LL HAVE TO TAKE CHARGE OF ANY NEW GIFTS ITS BROUGHT THIS TIME!

BUT WHEN THE OFFICIALS ENTER THE "GIFT" SHIP...

WHY, THERE'S NOTHING IN THE SHIP! AND LOOK... THE DOORS ARE CLOSING! WE'RE TRAPPED IN HERE!

I FIGURED SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN AND BROUGHT SPECIAL EQUIPMENT WITH ME!

BUT BEFORE THE RESOURCEFUL PLANETEER CAN ACT...

KNOCKOUT GAS... IT'S OVERCOMING US!

AND THE SHIP IS TAKING OFF! THE "GIFTS" WERE ONLY BAIT, TO TRAP AND KIDNAP US!

OUT INTO SPACE, WITH UNCONSCIOUS KIDNAPED PASSENGERS, AGAIN RUSHES THE SINISTER "GIFT SHIP"!

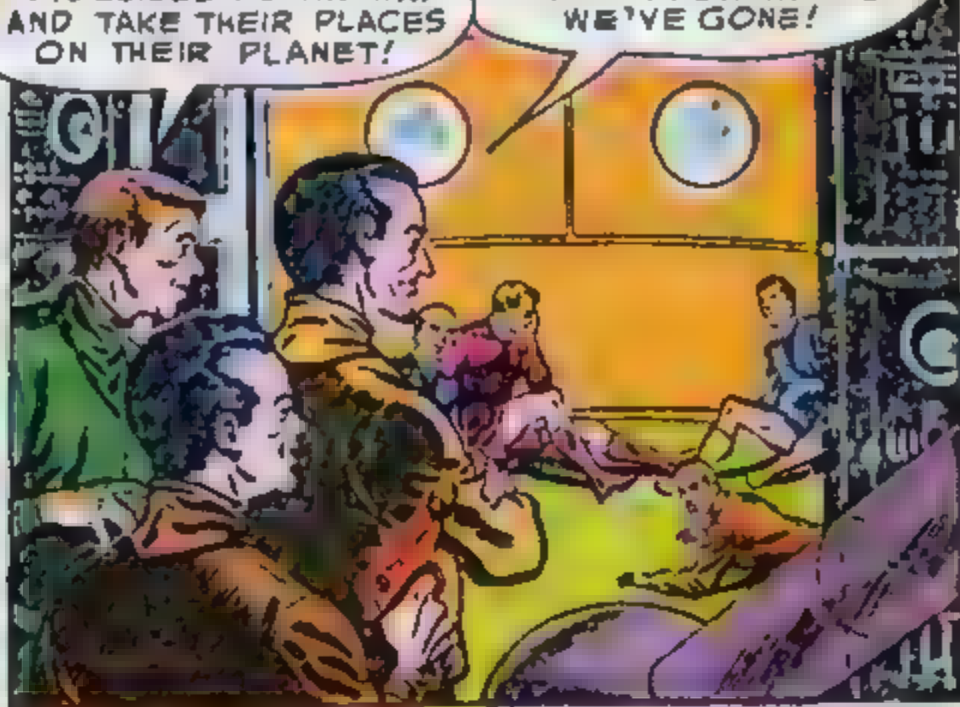
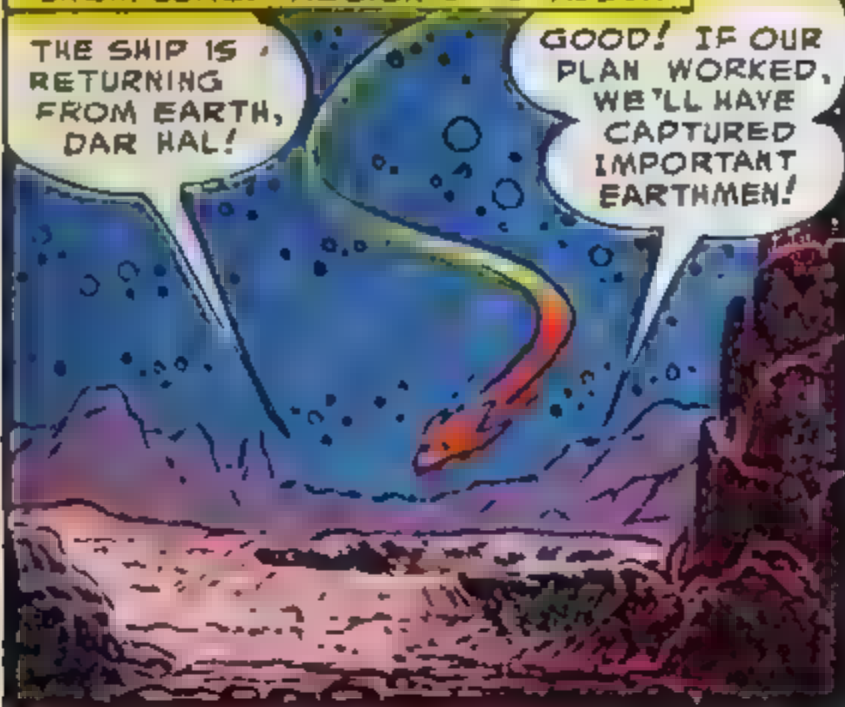
ACROSS THE VAST VOID AT A SPEED FASTER-THAN-LIGHT RACES THE AUTOMATICALLY-CONTROLLED VESSEL, TO LAND IN AN UNEXPLORED REGION OF SPACE...

THE SHIP IS RETURNING FROM EARTH, DAR HAL!

GOOD! IF OUR PLAN WORKED, WE'LL HAVE CAPTURED IMPORTANT EARTHMEN!

WHY-- THEY'RE HUMAN, JUST LIKE US! WE CAN GO TO THEIR EARTH, DISGUISED AS THEM, AND TAKE THEIR PLACES ON THEIR PLANET!

AND THE POLICE ON OUR OWN WORLD HERE, WHO ARE HUNTING US, WILL NEVER KNOW WHERE WE'VE GONE!

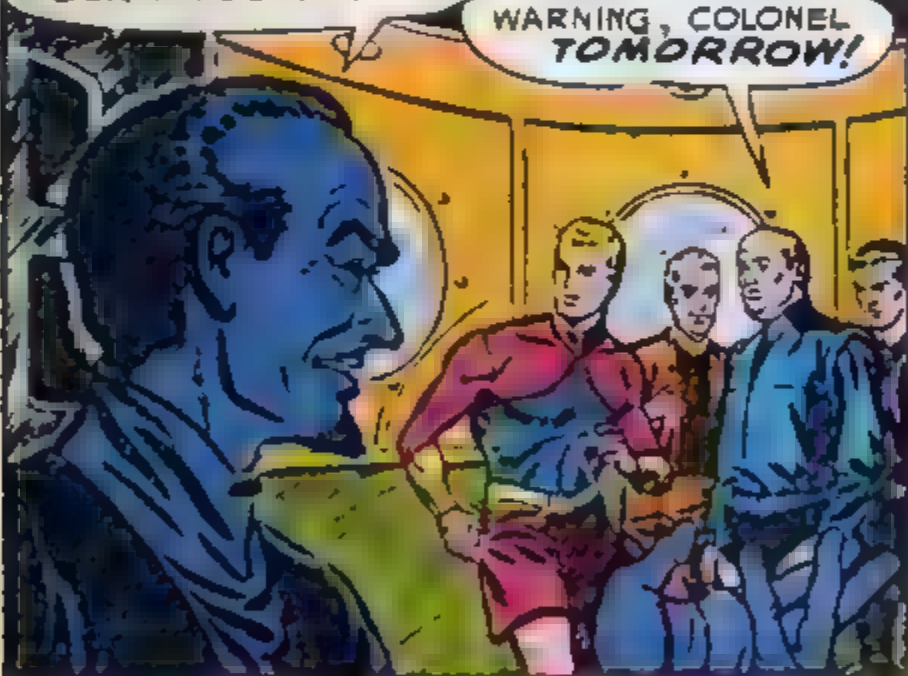


NO USE LOOKING FOR YOUR WEAPON, EARTHMAN--- WE HAVE IT! YOU ARE OUR PRISONER!

IT WAS A TRAP TO CAPTURE US! WE SHOULD HAVE HEEDED YOUR WARNING, COLONEL TOMORROW!

WE'RE IN THE CRATER OF A DEAD VOLCANO!

YES... AN EXCELLENT HIDING-PLACE FROM OUR POLICE! BY THE TIME THEY FIND THIS PLACE, WE'LL BE GONE!



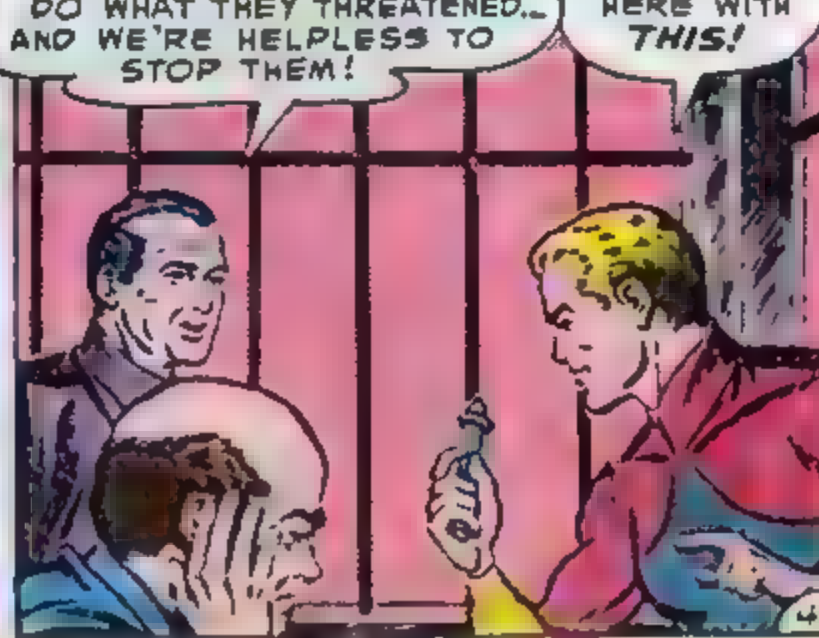
WE'LL STUDY YOU AND MAKE UP AS YOU! ON YOUR EARTH, WE'LL BE IMPORTANT MEN!

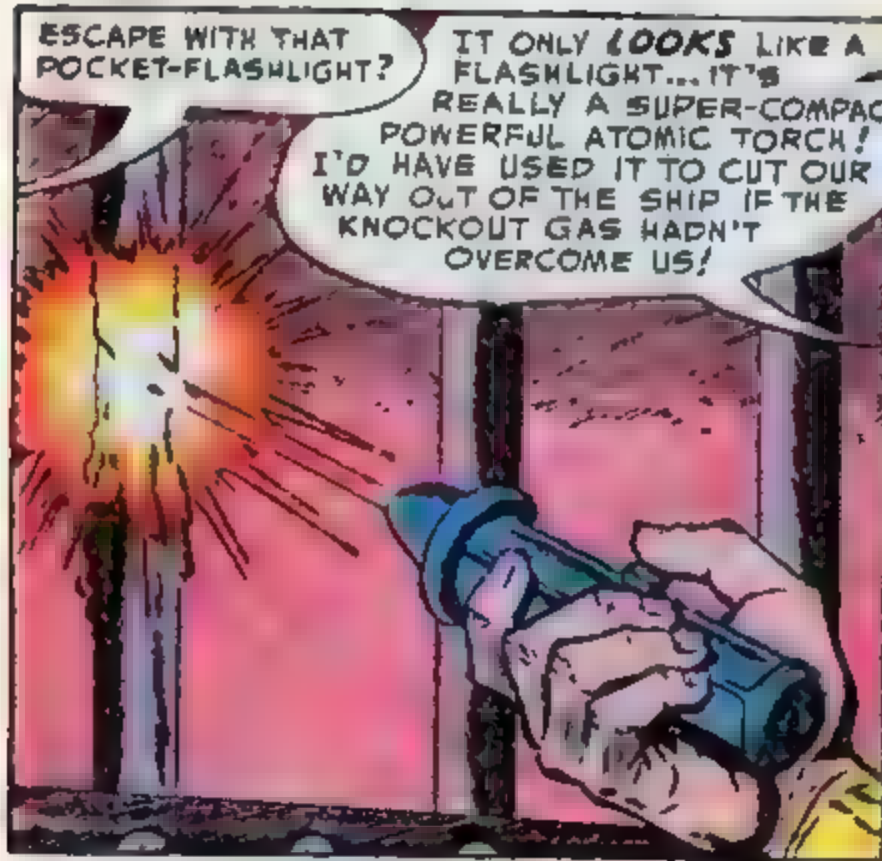
WITH OUR SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, WE'LL SOON DOMINATE YOUR EARTH!

WHEN THE ALIENS FINALLY LEAVE THE EARTHMEN ALONE...

THESE OTHER-WORLD CRIMINALS CAN EASILY DO WHAT THEY THREATENED... AND WE'RE HELPLESS TO STOP THEM!

WE MIGHT STOP THEM... IF WE CAN ESCAPE FROM HERE WITH THIS!





ESCAPE WITH THAT POCKET-FLASHLIGHT?

IT ONLY LOOKS LIKE A FLASHLIGHT... IT'S REALLY A SUPER-COMPACT, POWERFUL ATOMIC TORCH! I'D HAVE USED IT TO CUT OUR WAY OUT OF THE SHIP IF THE KNOCKOUT GAS HADN'T OVERCOME US!



BUT WHEN THE ESCAPE BEGINS...

DAR HAL, THE EARTHMAN ARE ESCAPING! BRING UP REINFORCEMENTS!

GOT TO DESTROY THIS RAY-BLASTER!



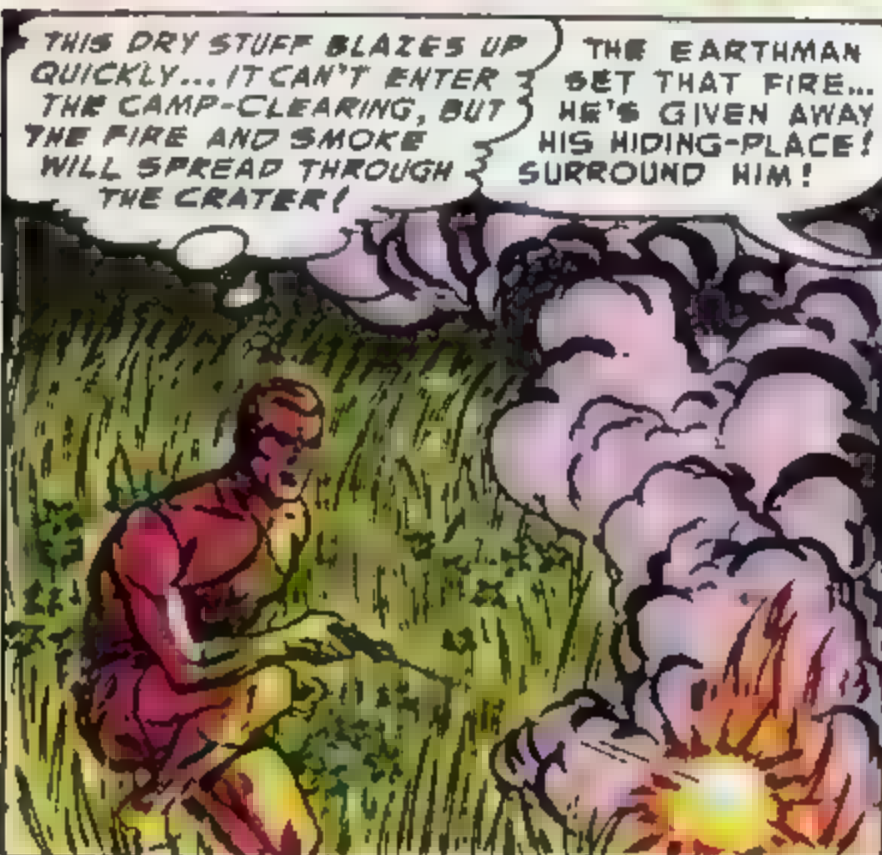
MY GUN... RED-HOT! CAN'T HOLD IT!

THE ALARM'S BEEN SOUNDED! I CAN'T GET YOU OUT NOW... BUT I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU!

PLUNGING INTO THE WEIRD VEGETATION AROUND THE CRIMINALS' CAMP IN THE CRATER...

FIND THAT EARTHMAN! IF YOU LISTEN, YOU'LL HEAR HIM... THE VEGETATION IS DRY NOW, AND HE CAN'T MOVE WITHOUT RUSTLING IT!

THAT'S BAD, BUT WAIT A MINUTE, MAYBE THAT'S GOOD!

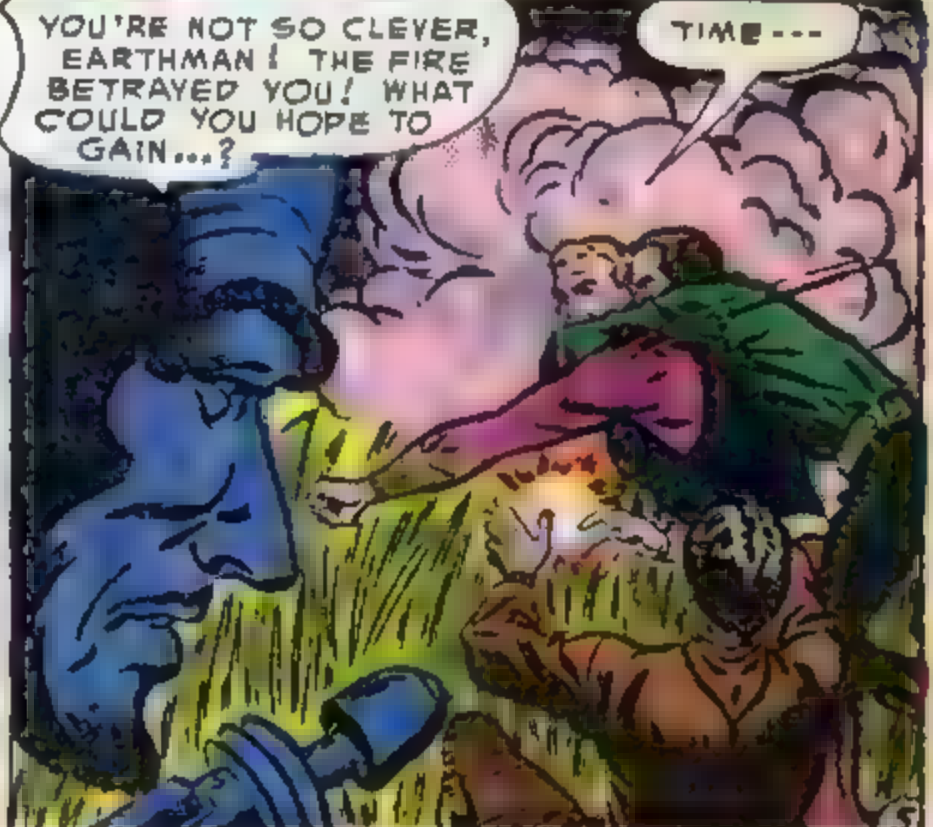


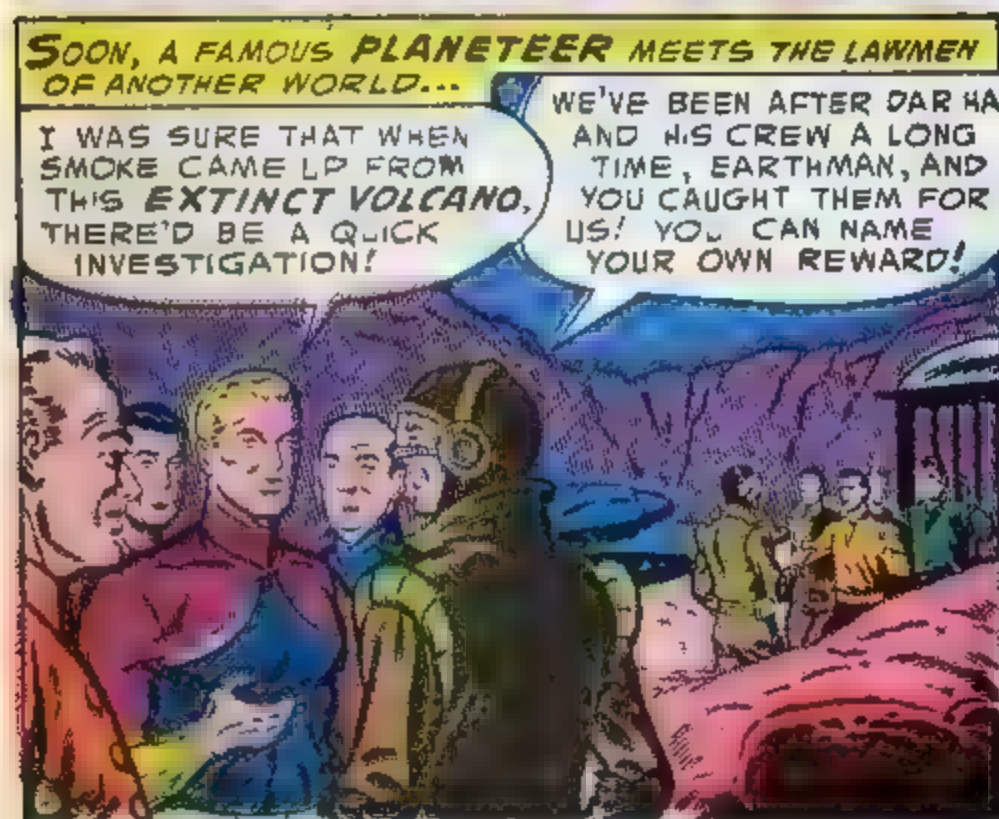
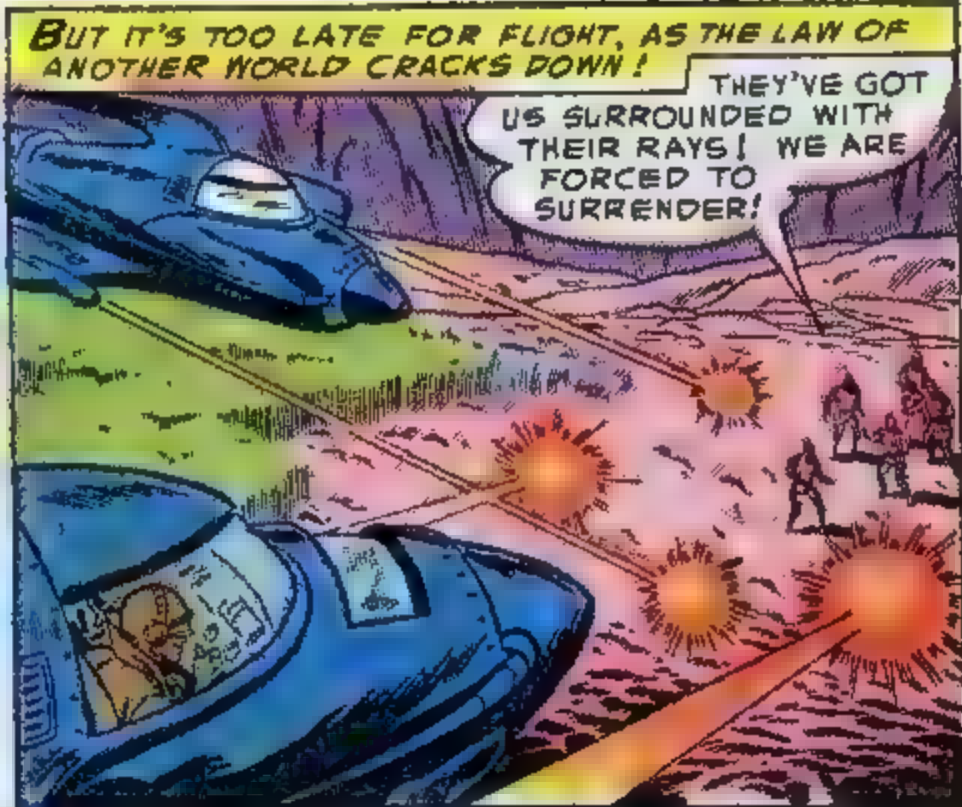
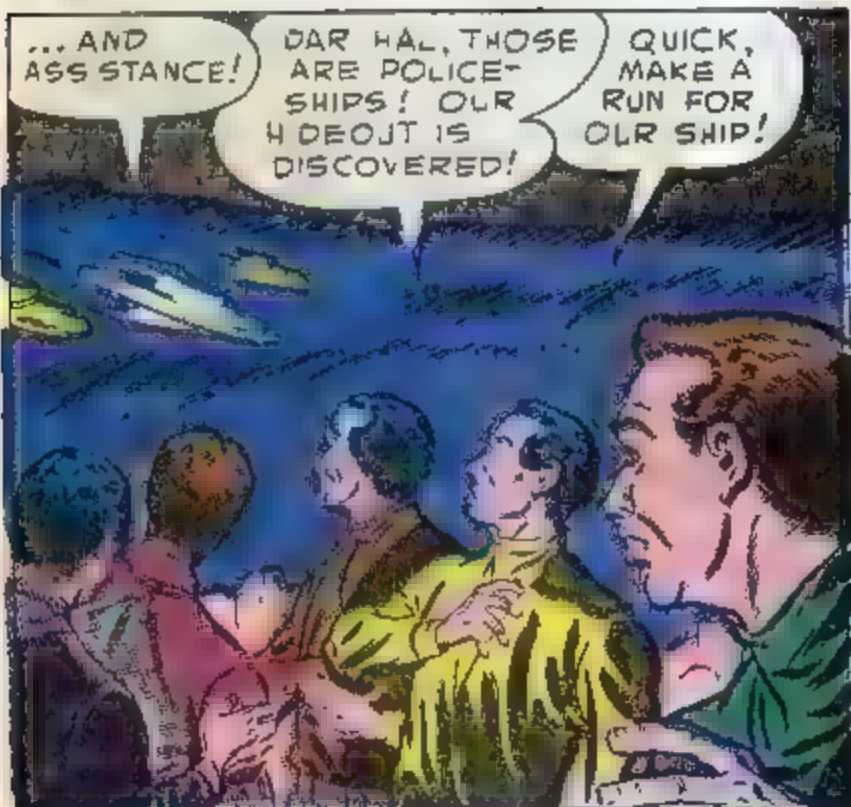
THIS DRY STUFF BLAZES UP QUICKLY... IT CAN'T ENTER THE CAMP-CLEARING, BUT THE FIRE AND SMOKE WILL SPREAD THROUGH THE CRATER!

THE EARTHMAN SET THAT FIRE... HE'S GIVEN AWAY HIS HIDING-PLACE! SURROUND HIM!

YOU'RE NOT SO CLEVER, EARTHMAN! THE FIRE BETRAYED YOU! WHAT COULD YOU HOPE TO GAIN...?

TIME---





ADVERTISEMENT

GET THAT SUCCESSFUL LOOK WITH AMERICA'S LARGEST SELLING HAIR TONIC!

CAN YOUR SCALP PASS THE FINGERNAIL TEST?

Don't give dandruff and dryness a chance to ruin the looks of your hair. Keep it neat and natural all day with Wildroot Cream-Oil. Made with the heart of Lanolin, so much like the natural oil of your skin! It's America's largest selling hair tonic... by far!

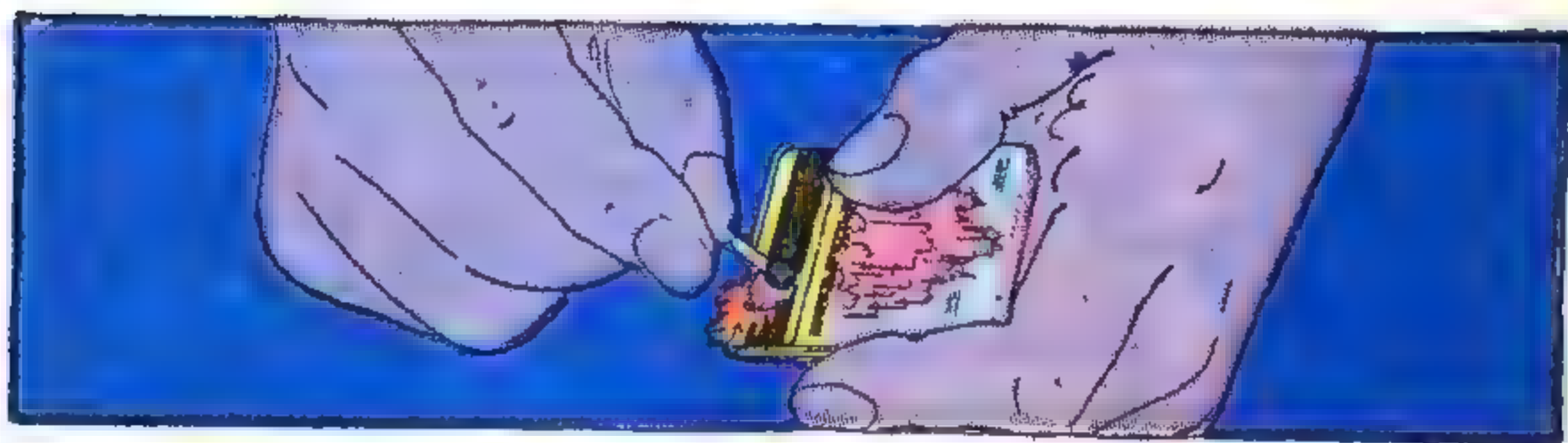


29¢



"I can't get him to wear his hat since he discovered Wildroot Cream-Oil!"

Match Cover Mania



Famous Folk, Kings and Hoboes Participate in the Nation's Second Most Popular Hobby

WHICH would you rather be—

A phillumenist? A matchonian? Or a mechcovrirophile?

It doesn't matter, because all three of these words are used to describe the million or so Americans who have made the collecting of match book covers our second-most-popular hobby. Once a diversion of the young, it has been made into an adult diversion by adult thinking.

Like the stamp collector, today's match book collector has come to regard himself as somewhat of a historian. Of course, he can't hope to acquire the nation's oldest—and most valued—match book, a tattered match cover put out by the Mendelson Opera Company (that's how they misspelled it) on the eve of a New York City engagement in 1896.

Hand-lettered by the singers and musicians of the troupe, it's now insured by the match company which owns it for \$25,000 on the rare occasions when it goes on display.

But the match book collector can do a historical job by keeping a record of our times through the match books he saves. One out of 15 American business firms—a total of 257,000 of them—put their names

on match covers, for promotion, advertising, or employee communications.

To many of today's match book collectors, there's a challenge to maintain, through match books, a record of all the companies who are in an individual field of industry or consumer service.

Typical of such collectors is Gordon Taylor, who is vice president of the National Rathkamp Matchcover Society into which collectors are organized, and who is also president of the Empire Matchcover Club in New York City.

Unlike the majority of match book collectors, who specialize in match books of such familiar industries as transportation, restaurants, hotels, or radio, Mr. Taylor has specialized in the unusual. He has the finest collections of match books issued by bowling alleys, funeral directors, and oil drilling supply firms.

With 7,000 bowling alleys and 25,000 funeral parlors, in operation in this country, the management consultant executive sees a long task ahead to reach his goal of having a match book from each advertiser in these fields.

Paul Jones, columnist of "The Philadelphia Bulletin", offers an interesting theory

as to how a match collector falls into the web of the hobby.

"A man gets into the habit of standing in front of his bureau, and emptying his pockets, on the theory that tomorrow he will change to his other suit. Little by little the top bureau drawer fills up with book matches, and one day his wife looks into the drawer and says, 'What are all those book matches doing in there?'"

"He says, with dignity, 'I am making a collection!' Then, of course, he has to go through with it, or lose face."

Gordon Taylor, after reading Jones' newspaper column, commented, "He may have been joking, but that's exactly how I got started—and now I have 300,000 of them."

Match book collectors comprise a cross-section of America—or of the world. Top-flight industrial executives like Taylor, entertainers like Vincent Lopez, the wife of the Ambassador from Afghanistan, Hobo King Jeff Davis, and ex-King Farouk of Egypt, all are phillumenists.

Champion of all collectors is Dr. Charles Higgs of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, whose 2,000,000 covers are rumored to be keeping his car out of his garage.

One of the sights of the century is to behold a convention of the Rathkamp Society. Hundreds of collectors descend on a hotel in some selected city (in 1953 it was Richmond, Virginia) laden with their "spares"—duplicate match books or those advertising an industry the collector isn't covering. Some bring a suitcase full; one member brought three trunksful last year. Each member sets up his display in his own room; and for three days the members spend up to 22 hours swapping.

For the rest of the year, the members are busy swapping by mail, or making

purchases through the advertising columns of the society's monthly bulletin. The rest of the time is devoted to filing, sorting, and mounting the match books in albums or special file cabinets. Some members use photograph albums with four rows of strings attached horizontally, which hold two rows of match books in place.

Others purchase special albums with slit openings which they purchase from companies that make them up especially for match book collectors, or from fellow-collectors who are interested in earning a little money from their hobby.

Most highly valued, among the match books that collectors swap, is the \$100 match book given out in 1927 at a luncheon at the Hotel Astor honoring Col. Charles A. Lindbergh after the Lone Eagle flew the Atlantic. Truman-Barkley inaugural dinner match books are now selling for \$11, and last year's inaugural dinner match books for President Eisenhower within a week had reached almost that price.

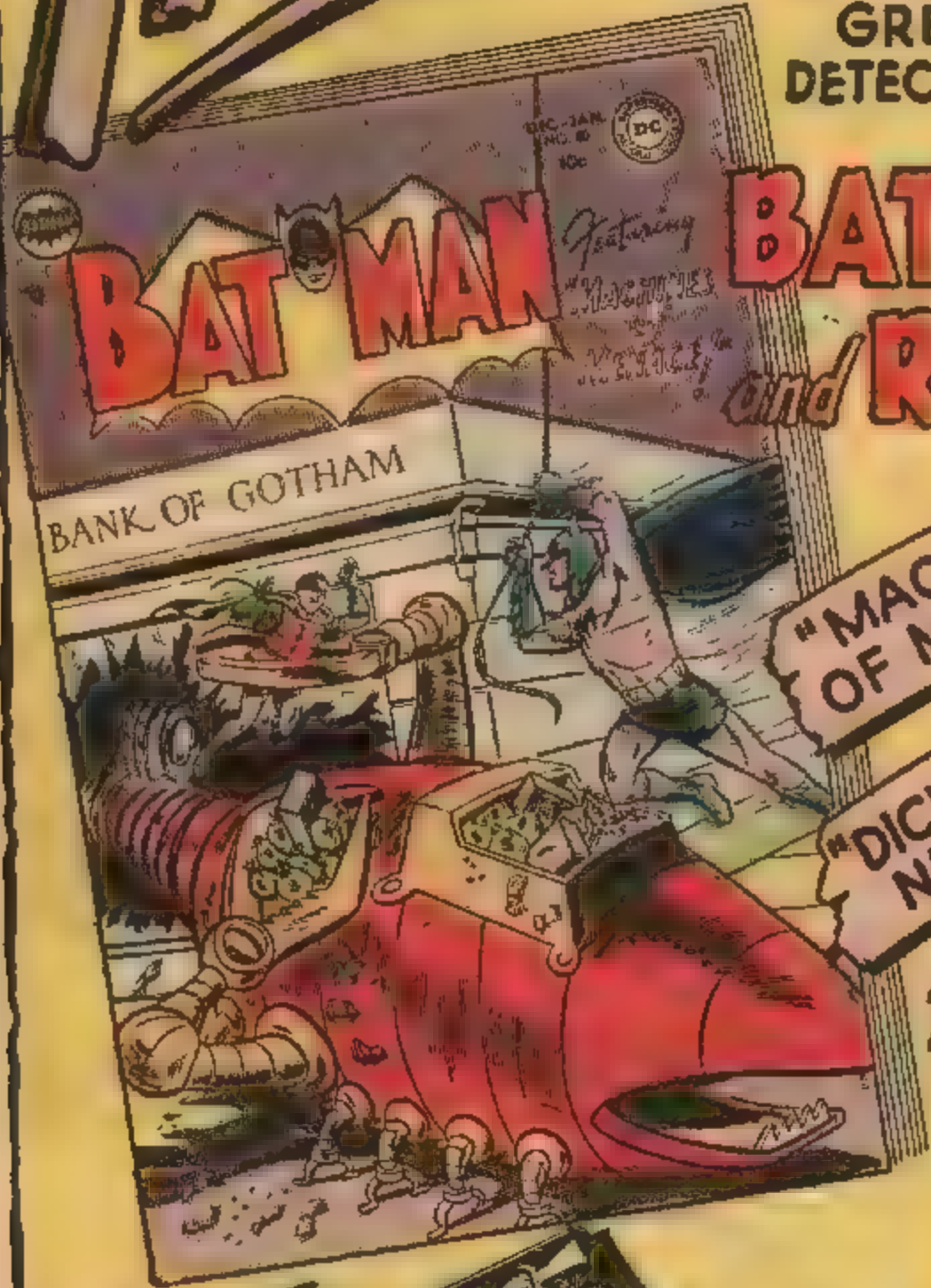
According to match book collector Sam Rosen, who specializes in "politicals," there were never as many political advertising match books in one campaign as 1952 brought forth, with "I Like Ike" match books setting a record for number and variety. A Kentucky sheriff campaigned with the slogan, "He hasn't done you too much harm," and an Indianapolis man had his three children circulate his match books door to door.

Some collectors go in for match books which advertise on a humorous note, like the filbert store in Hartford, Connecticut, whose slogan is, "Nuts to you."

In any case, the collectors agree, it's lots of fun, you get in a lot of travel without leaving home and you learn a lot about how American business operates.

THREE SMASHING ADVENTURES

OF THE WORLD'S
GREATEST
DETECTIVE TEAM



BATMAN and ROBIN

"MACHINES
OF MENACE!"

"DICK GRAYSON'S
NIGHTMARE!"

"JOKER'S MOVIE
CRIMES!"



SPA-LOOSH!

THE JOKER
DIRECTOR



NOW ON SALE *at your favorite Newsstand!*

VIGILANTE

"GUN'DOWN VIGILANTE!"
THOSE WERE THE ORDERS
ISSUED TO A RUTHLESS
KILLER! AND ALTHOUGH
HUNDREDS BEFORE OUTLAW
EDDIE MEEGAN HAD
FAILED TO DO AWAY WITH
THE FAMED RIDER OF THE
PURPLE SAGE, THE ODDS
SEEMED TO BE ALL IN
MEEGAN'S FAVOR... FOR
HIS BOSSES THREATENED
HIM WITH DEATH ANYHOW IF
HE FAILED TO BECOME...

The **MAN** who
KILLED
VIGILANTE!

HA, HA... I GUNNED DOWN
VIGILANTE! NOW I'M
FREE... FREE AS A
BRUSH BIRD!

O-OH!

V-VIG!
THEY... GOT
YOU AT
LAST!

ONE MORNING, AS GREG SANDERS, THE
FAMED PRAIRIE TROUBADOUR
ENTERTAINS THE CITIZENS OF
BUCKBOARD GULCH...

SO I TOOK THE LONG TRAIL
TO BUCKBOARD TOWN...
AND KISSED THAT GAL...
WITH THE PURTY FROWN...

SWING
IT,
GREG!

YAHOO!

PSSST...
GREG...

MONSTER
BUCKBOARD
SQUAD

BEN WHITAKER
JUST LEFT BY THE
REAR DOOR,
GREG!

NICE GOING, STUFF!
HE'S THE ONE
CHARACTER WHO
MIGHT LEAD US TO
THE BRATTON GANG!
KEEP A WEATHER EYE
ON HIM, WHILE I
CHANGE COSTUMES!

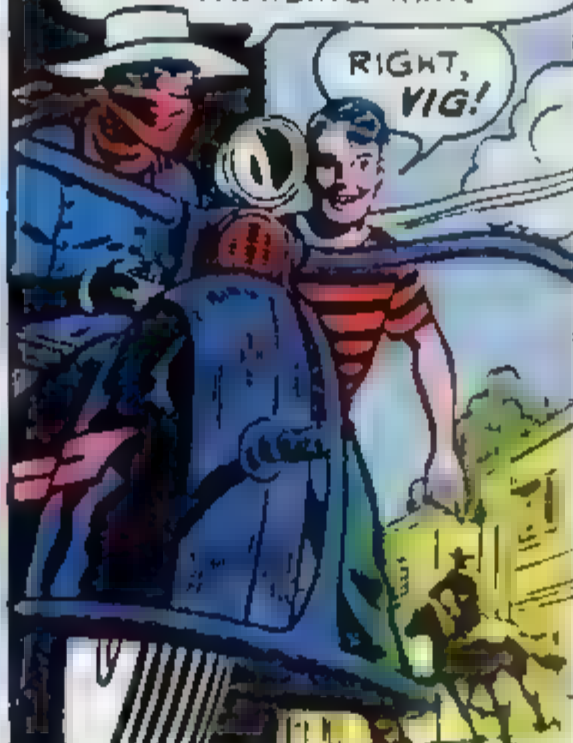
QUICKLY, GREG CALLS AN INTERMISSION AND SECRETLY CHANGES INTO THE COSTUME OF VIGILANTE, GALLANT MASKED RIDER OF LAW AND ORDER!

SURE HOPE WHITAKER IS TIED IN WITH THE BRATTON GANG! HIS ACTIONS CERTAINLY MAKE HIM A SUSPECT... HE'S THE ONLY MAN IN TOWN WHO VANISHES FOR DAYS AT A TIME, AND SUDDENLY RETURNS WEALTHY!



SHORTLY...

BUT THE SUPER-SILENT MUFFLER ON THE VIG-CYCLE, STUFF! GOT TO MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T HEAR US TRAILING HIM!



RIGHT, VIG!

ALL AT ONCE, AS THE SUSPECT PAUSES ALONG THE ROAD...

LISTEN! GUNFIRE... FROM THE BUCKBOARD BANK!

AND WHITAKER'S HALTED BESIDE THAT FENCE, AS IF HE'S WAITING FOR SOMETHING!



AT THIS SAME MOMENT, WHERE THE SHOOTING OCCURRED...



LET'S GO! AN' HANG ONTO THAT MONEY BAG, MEEGAN!

DON'T WORRY, BRATTON... I GOT A DEATH GRIP ON HER!

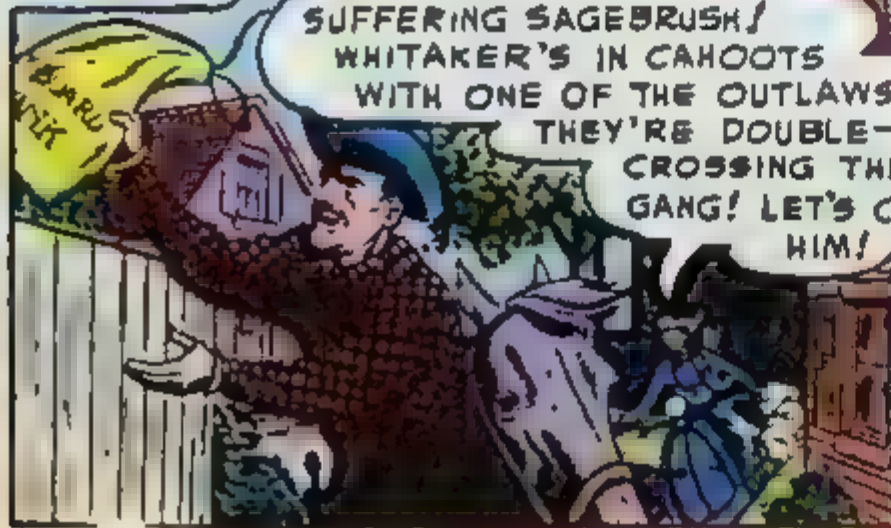
BUT SUDDENLY...



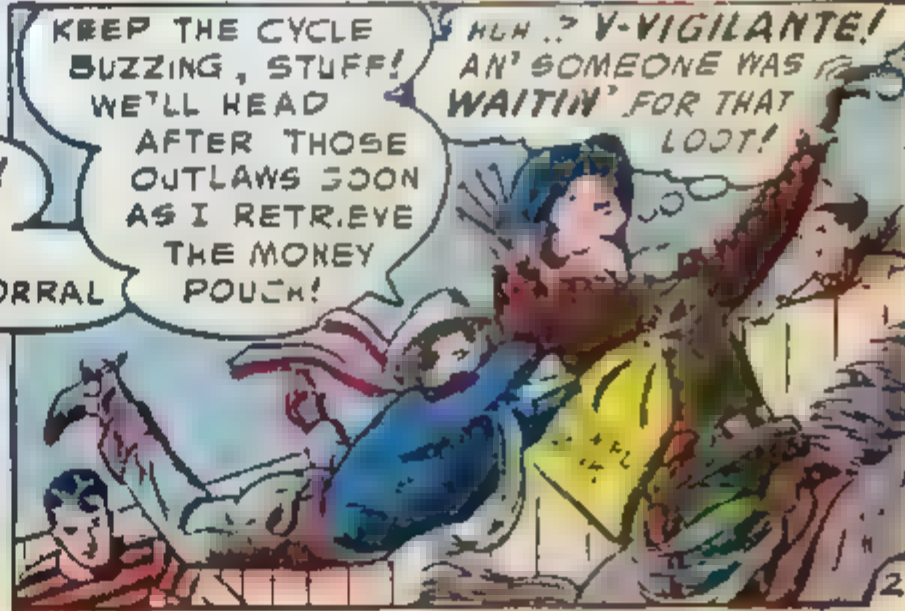
OOPS! MY HOSS STUMBLER!

WHA...? YUH CLUMSY POOL!

AND ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE...



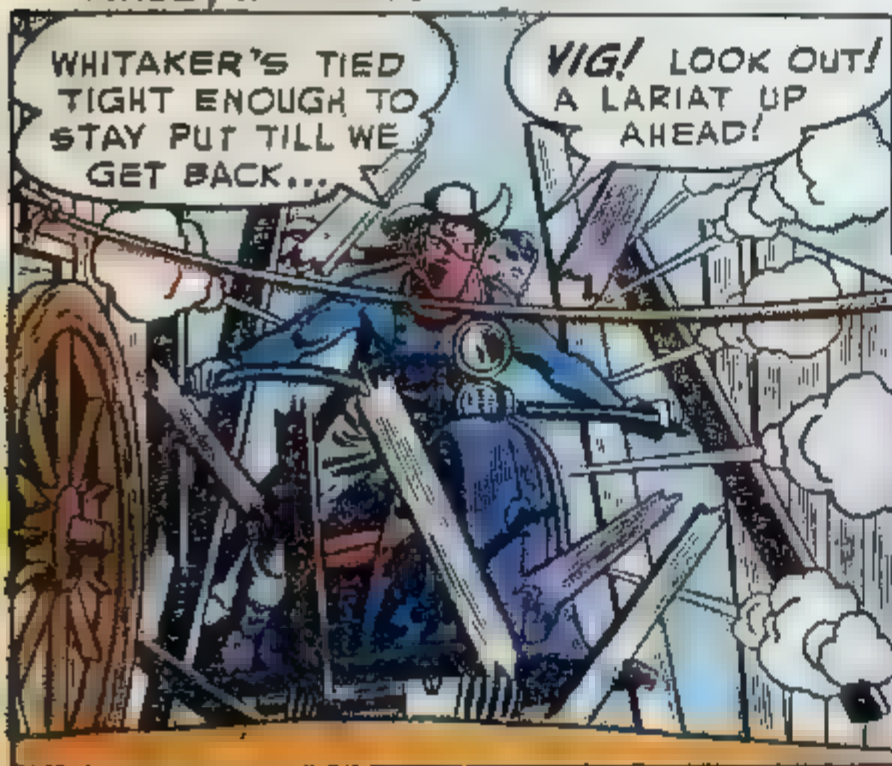
SUFFERING SAGEBRUSH! WHITAKER'S IN CAHOOTS WITH ONE OF THE OUTLAWS! THEY'RE DOUBLE-CROSSING THE GANG! LET'S CORRAL HIM!



KEEP THE CYCLE BUZZING, STUFF! WE'LL HEAD AFTER THOSE OUTLAWS SOON AS I RETRIEVE THE MONEY POUCH!

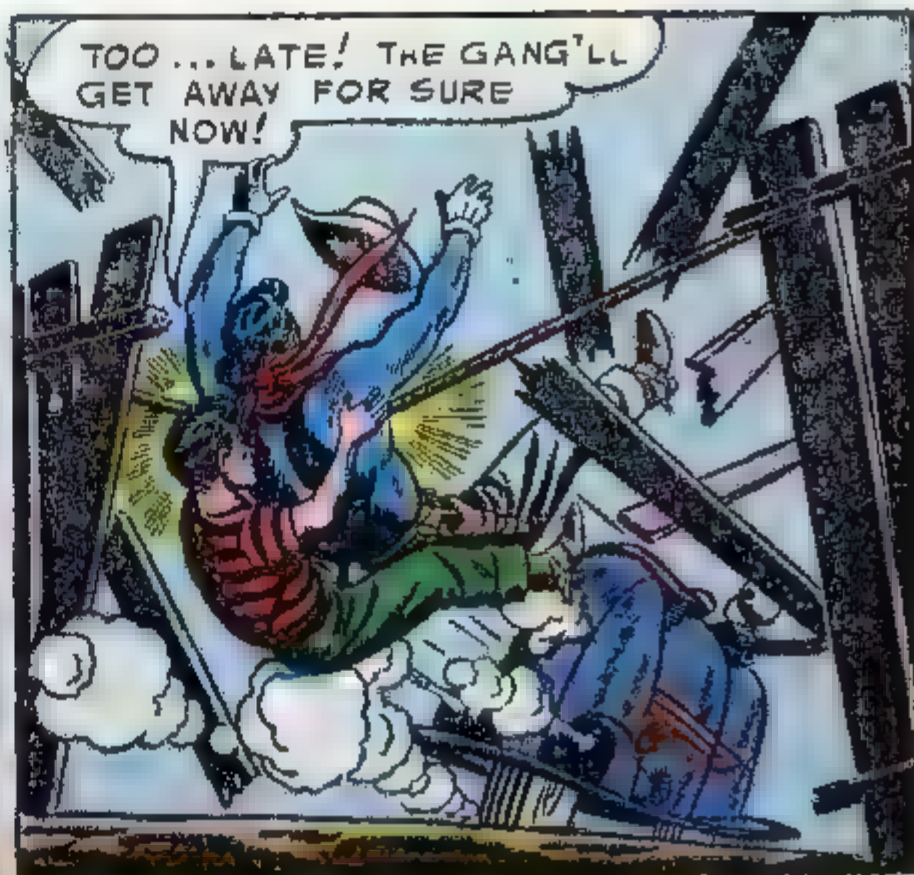
WHU...? V-VIGILANTE! AN' SOMEONE WAS WAITIN' FOR THAT LOOT!

AND AS **VIGILANTE** PICKS UP THE CHASE, MOMENTS AFTERWARD...



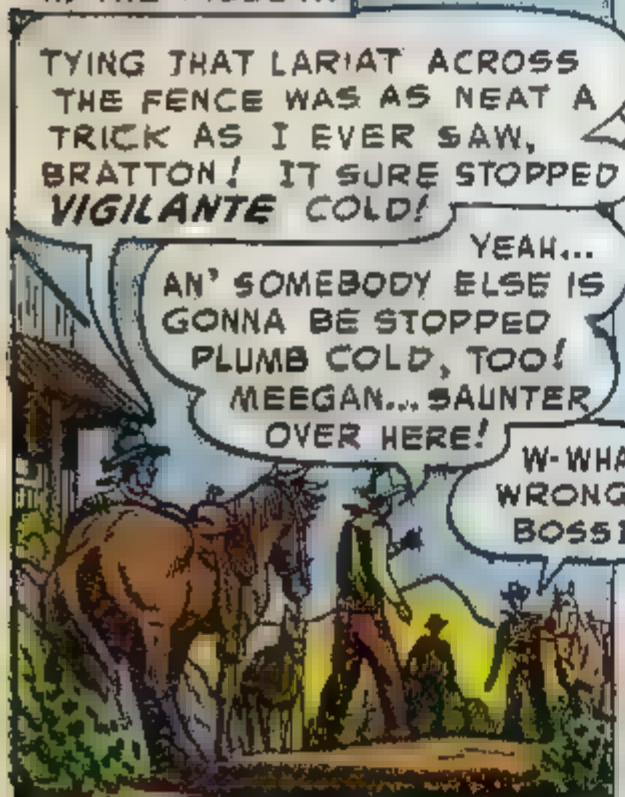
WHITAKER'S TIED TIGHT ENOUGH TO STAY PUT TILL WE GET BACK...

VIG! LOOK OUT! A LARIAT UP AHEAD!



TOO ... LATE! THE GANG'LL GET AWAY FOR SURE NOW!

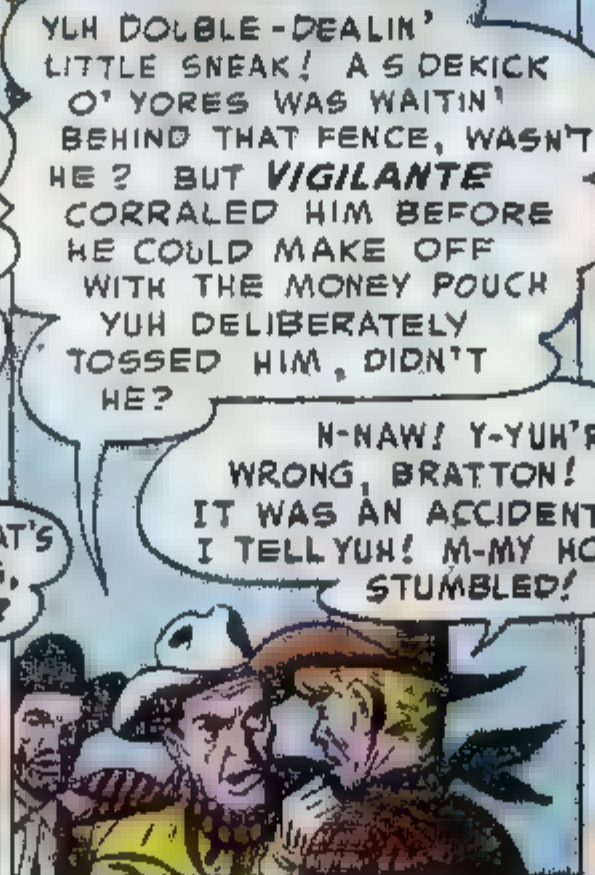
THUS, AWHILE LATER, HIGH IN THE HILLS...



TYING THAT LARIAT ACROSS THE FENCE WAS AS NEAT A TRICK AS I EVER SAW, BRATTON! IT SURE STOPPED **VIGILANTE** COLD!

YEAH... AN' SOMEBODY ELSE IS GONNA BE STOPPED PLUMB COLD, TOO! MEEGAN... SAUNTER OVER HERE!

W-WHAT'S WRONG, BOSS?



YUH DOUBLE-DEALIN' LITTLE SNEAK! A S DEKICK O' YORES WAS WAITIN' BEHIND THAT FENCE, WASN'T HE? BUT **VIGILANTE** CORRALED HIM BEFORE HE COULD MAKE OFF WITH THE MONEY POUCH YUH DELIBERATELY TOSSED HIM, DIDN'T HE?

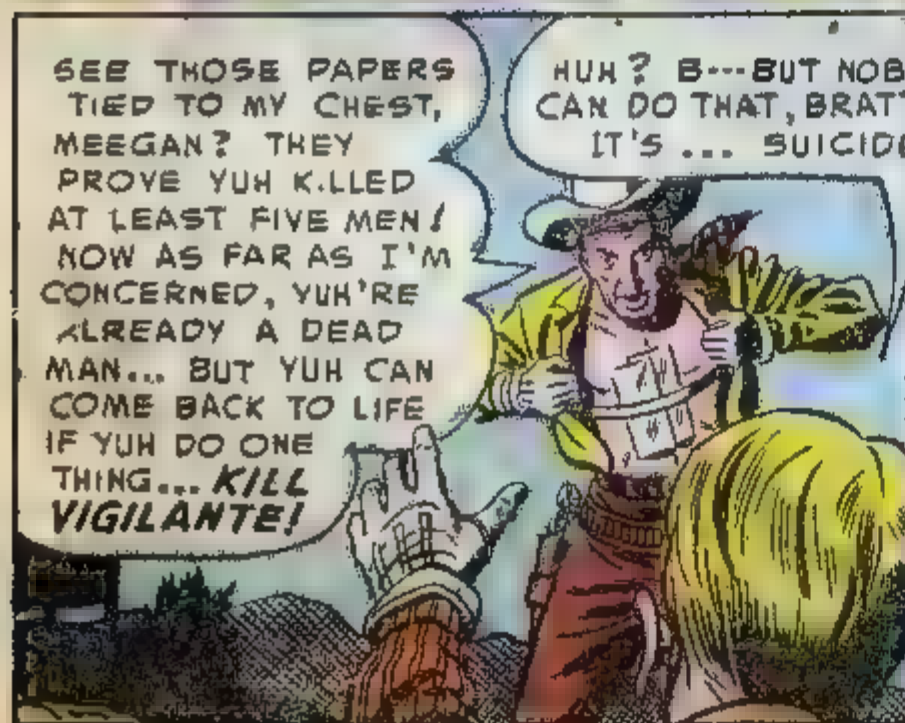
N-AW! Y-YUH'RE WRONG, BRATTON! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, I TELLYUH! M-MY HOSS STUMBLER!



THE RAT!

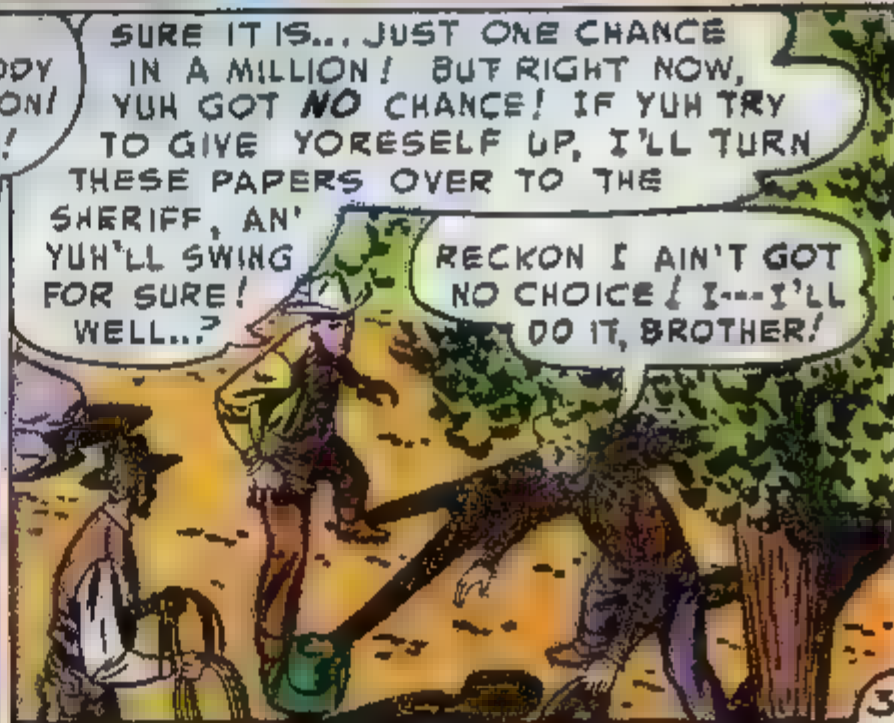
STRING HIM UP, BRATTON!

NAW... I GOT A BETTER IDEA! THIS LITTLE TURNCOAT IS GONNA DO US A GOOD TURN... AN' HIMSELF, TOO!



SEE THOSE PAPERS TIED TO MY CHEST, MEEGAN? THEY PROVE YUH KILLED AT LEAST FIVE MEN! NOW AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YUH'RE ALREADY A DEAD MAN... BUT YUH CAN COME BACK TO LIFE IF YUH DO ONE THING... **KILL VIGILANTE!**

HUH? B---BUT NOBODY CAN DO THAT, BRATTON! IT'S ... SUICIDE!



SURE IT IS... JUST ONE CHANCE IN A MILLION! BUT RIGHT NOW, YUH GOT **NO** CHANCE! IF YUH TRY TO GIVE YORESELF UP, I'LL TURN THESE PAPERS OVER TO THE SHERIFF, AN' YUH'LL SWING FOR SURE! WELL...

RECKON I AIN'T GOT NO CHOICE! I---I'LL DO IT, BROTHER!

AND SO, AS THE DESPERATE KILLER TAKES OFF...

REACHING TOWN, MEEGAN QUICKLY EMBARKS ON A DARING STRATEGY...

AND THAT AFTERNOON, AS VIGILANTE ANSWERS A PHONY CALL FOR HELP...

REMEMBER, MEEGAN--- WE'LL BE GUARDIN' ALL THE ROADS LEADIN' FROM TOWN! TRY TO MAKE A BREAK AN' IT MEANS A BULLET IN YORE BACK! BUT IF YUH DO THE JOB AN' MANAGE TO STAY ALIVE, TOO, YUH'RE A FREE MAN!

YUH GOT ME BOXED IN GOOD, BRATTON! BUT... VIGILANTE'S SURE TO DIE THIS TIME... 'CAUSE I GOT NOTHIN' TO LOSE! MAYBE I'LL DIE, TOO... BUT HE'S A GONER FOR SURE!

I 'DUNNO, MEEGAN! WE'RE ALWAYS OPEN FOR A JOB... BUT TANGLIN' WITH VIGILANTE... THAT'S SOMETHIN' ELSE!

DON'T BE A PAIR O' SAPS! I'M TAKIN' ALL THE RISKS... ALL YOU TWO HAVE TO DO IS DECOY HIM! HERE'S THE CASH!

AWRIGHT... WE'LL TAKE IT! AFTER ALL, WITH THE RISKS YUH'RE WILLIN' TO TAKE, YUH MAY BE SUCCESSFUL!

H-HERE THEY COME! GOTTA MAKE MY FIRST SHOT GOOD! IT'S THE FINISH O' VIGILANTE... AN' MAYBE I CAN GIT OUT ALIVE, TOO!

THAT'S RIGHT, VIGILANTE! ABOUT TWO MILES AHEAD IS WHERE OUR CABIN WAS ROBBED!

SUDDENLY, THE LAWMAN'S ALERT EYES CATCH A GLINT OF SUNLIGHT AGAINST METAL, JUST AS...

THAT REFLECTION! A SNIPER IN THE ROCKS! DUCK, STUFF!

THE FOOL MISSED! OH-H-K!

THESE CRITTERS LED US INTO AN AMBUSH, STUFF!

THE SNEAKY BRUSH RATS!

COME ON... WE CAN ROUND UP THESE TWO LATER, STUFF! THE CHIEF OWLHOOT IS UP IN THOSE BOULDERS... HE'S THE ONE WE HAVE TO GET!

COMING, VIG!

M-MISSED! HE SPOTTED ME! HE'S CLOSIN' IN! GOTTA GET AWAY!

PANIC-STRICKEN, MEEGAN BOLTS FOR SAFETY... BUT VIGILANTE'S LARIAT LOOPS THROUGH THE AIR AND...

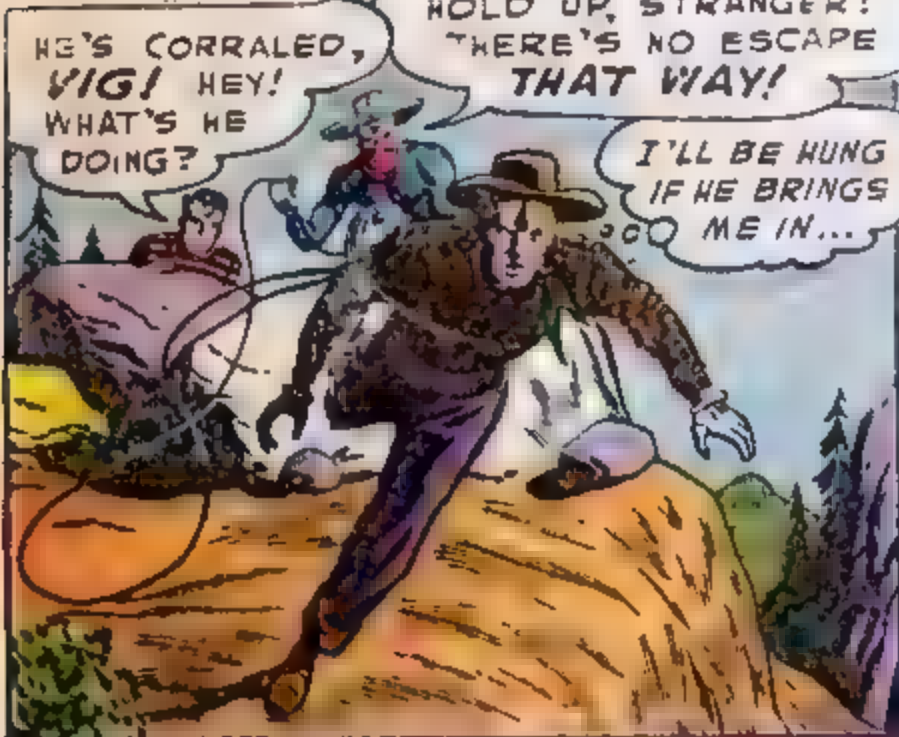


AND AS THE LARIAT SETTLES OVER THE OWLHOOT, HE MAKES A DARING DECISION...

HE'S CORRALED, **VIG!** HEY! WHAT'S HE DOING?

HOLD UP, STRANGER! THERE'S NO ESCAPE **THAT WAY!**

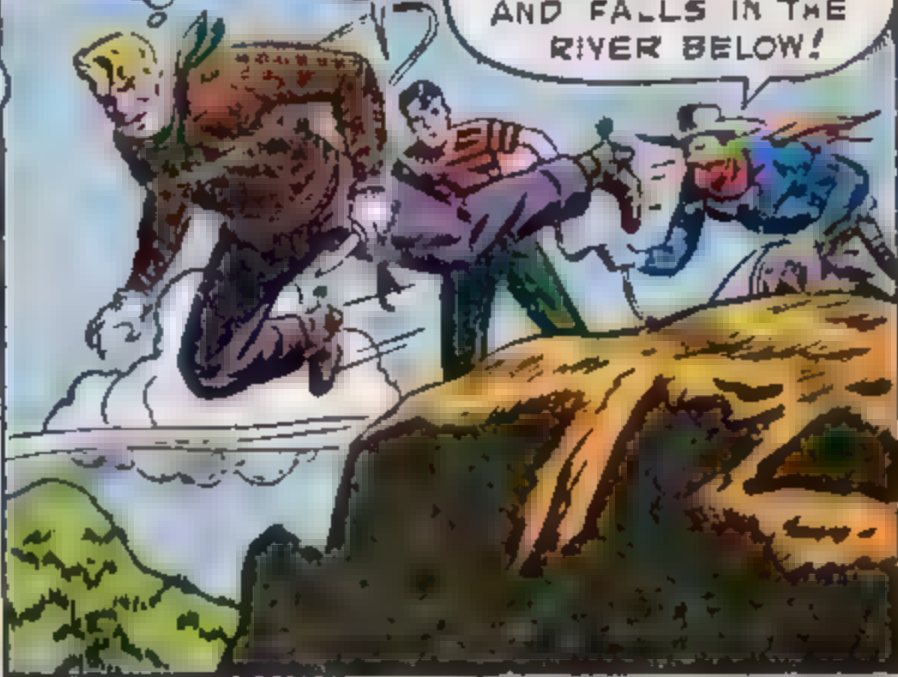
I'LL BE HUNG IF HE BRINGS ME IN...



MY CHANCES AREN'T LONG!

VIG! HE'S GOING TO CUT THE LARIAT!

H-HE **CAN'T!** IT'S SUICIDE WITH THOSE WHIRLPOOLS AND FALLS IN THE RIVER BELOW!



GREAT HANNAH! TAKE YOUR TIME IN JAIL! YOU HAVEN'T ONE CHANCE IN A MILLION DOWN THERE!

THAT'S BETTER'N NO CHANCE AT ALL, **VIGILANTE!**



AND AS THE ROPE SNAPS...

YA-A-A-A!

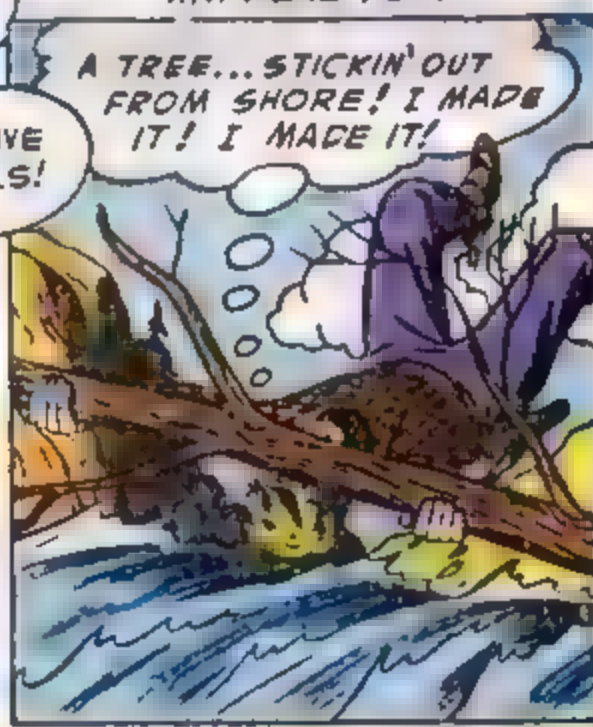
HE'S CRAZY! STARK CRAZY!

HE'LL NEVER SURVIVE THOSE FALLS!



BUT A MOMENT LATER, THE ONE-IN-A-MILLION CHANCE HAPPENS AS...

A TREE... STICKIN' OUT FROM SHORE! I MADE IT! I MADE IT!

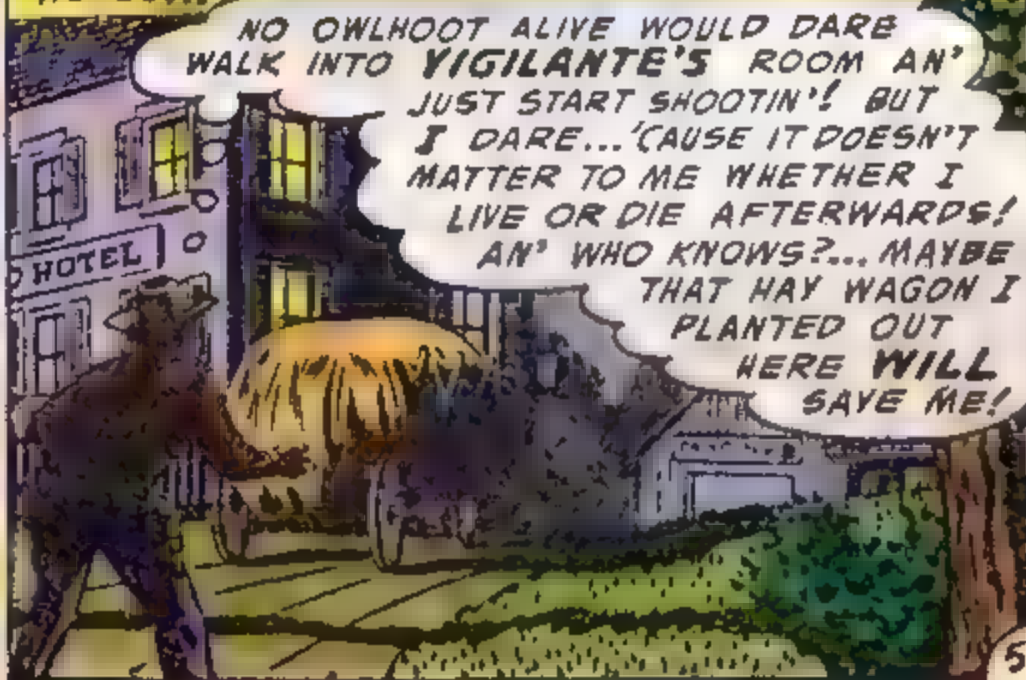


IT WAS A MIRACLE... BUT I OUTWITTED **VIGILANTE!** I'VE GOT ANOTHER CHANCE! NOBODY ELSE WOULD DARE TAKE THE RISKS I DO... AN' THAT'S WHY HE'S **SURE TO DIE!**



THUS, THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, AT **VIGILANTE'S HOTEL...**

NO OWLHOOT ALIVE WOULD DARE WALK INTO **VIGILANTE'S** ROOM AN' JUST START SHOOTIN'! BUT I DARE... 'CAUSE IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME WHETHER I LIVE OR DIE AFTERWARDS! AN' WHO KNOWS?... MAYBE THAT HAY WAGON I PLANTED OUT HERE **WILL SAVE ME!**



PRESENTLY, OUTSIDE
VIGILANTE'S ROOM...

AND AS THE UNSUSPECTING
LAWMAN OPENS THE DOOR...

YOU'RE A DEAD DUCK,
VIGILANTE 'CAUSE I GOT
NOTHIN' TO LOSE! YUH
CAN'T BEAT A MAN WHO'LL
RISK EVERYTHING!

M--MUSTN'T GET COLD
FEET! AFTER ALL...HE
IS HUMAN!

MESSAGE
FOR
VIGILANTE!

EAT LEAD, YUH
BLASTED TROUBLE
MAKER! M-MY HANDS...
THEY WON'T STOP
SHAKIN'!

HUH...?

THUNDERATION!
WATCH OUT,
STUFF! THE
MAN'S LOCO!

THEN, AS VIGILANTE
EVENS THE ODDS...

NOW DROP YOUR
GUN, BUSTER!
DROP IT FAST!

I---I MISSED!
I MISSED AGAIN...
'CAUSE I WAS TOO
NERVOUS!

SUFFERING
CATS! THAT'S
A TWO-STORY
DROP, MISTER!
DON'T DO IT!

BUT STARK TERROR GIVES THE
FEAR-CRAZED OWLHOOT
FALSE COURAGE...

S-STILL
A CHANCE...I
CAN MAKE
IT!

AND AS HIS PLUNGING WEIGHT JOLTS
THE WAITING WAGON BELOW...

BUT BY THE TIME THE PAIR REACHES
THE WAGON...

IT WORKED! THE
ROPE I RIGGED
SNAPPED...JUST
LIKE I FIGURED!

GREAT WILDCATS! HE'S
SAILING DOWN THE HILL
IN THAT HAY WAGON!

WHAT CAN IT
MEAN? WHY
WOULD ANY-
ONE GAMBLE HIS
LIFE AGAINST
SUCH ODDS TO
KILL ME? QUICK,
STUFF... DOWN
THE STAIRCASE!

WHEW! ANOTHER
MIRACULOUS
ESCAPE! TEN-TO-
ONE THIS CRAZY
CRITTER REMOVED
HIS MASK AND
DUCKED INTO
THAT ENTERTAINMENT
HALL! HE HAD THIS
DO-OR-DIE
ESCAPE
PLANNED!

WELL, LET'S
HEAD INSIDE!
WE MIGHT
RECOGNIZE
HIM BY HIS
CLOTHES!

AND INSIDE...

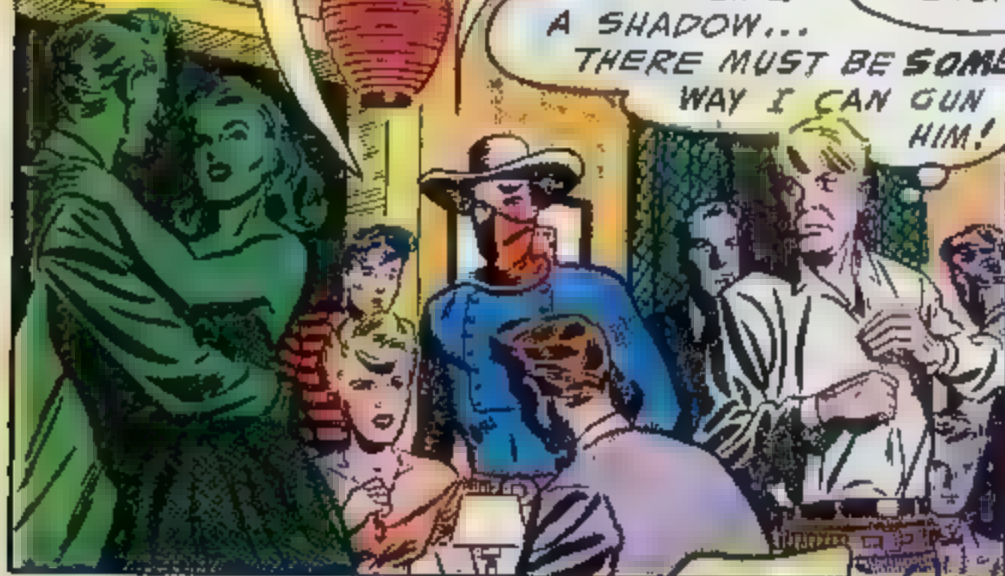
DON'T SEE ANYONE
DRESSED LIKE THAT
CRITTER HERE,
VIG!

HE MUST'VE SWITCHED
CLOTHES IN A HURRY!
I'M AFRAID WE'RE UP
AGAINST A CLEVER AS
WELL AS DARING
OWLHOOT,
STUFF!

HE'S LIKE
A SHADOW...
THERE MUST BE **SOME**
WAY I CAN GUN
HIM!

WHAT'S WRONG, SAM? YOU SURE
LOOK DOWN IN THE MOUTH! AREN'T
SICK, ARE YOU?

NO... NOT SICK,
VIGILANTE... JUST
SORT O' HUNGRY!
MY MINE RAN OUT,
AN' I HAVEN'T BEEN
EATIN' RIGHT!



WAITER! BRING SAM
HERE THE BEST MEAL
IN THE HOUSE!

YES
SIR!

JUMPIN'
JACKRABBITS!
THAT'S THE
GIMMICK! WHY
DIDN'T I THINK OF
IT BEFORE?

SO NEXT MORNING, AS
VIGILANTE AND STUFF
EAT BREAKFAST...

OH-H-H...

GREAT GHOSTS!
THAT OLD MAN'S
FAINTING... GRAB
HIM; STUFF!

I'LL UNLOOSEN HIS
BELTS...

V-VIGILANTE!

S-SORRY, SIR... BUT
I JUST GOT IN
FROM... THE HILLS...
HAVEN'T HAD A
BITE TO EAT...

STEADY, OLD
TIMER! WE'LL
FIX YOU UP!



THANKS, **VIGILANTE**...
YUH'RE RIGHT NICE!
I'M AN OLD PROSPECTOR...
BEEN WORKIN' THE
HILLS FOR YEARS
WITHOUT LUCK!
GUESS... MY
STRENGTH...
FINALLY GAVE
OUT!

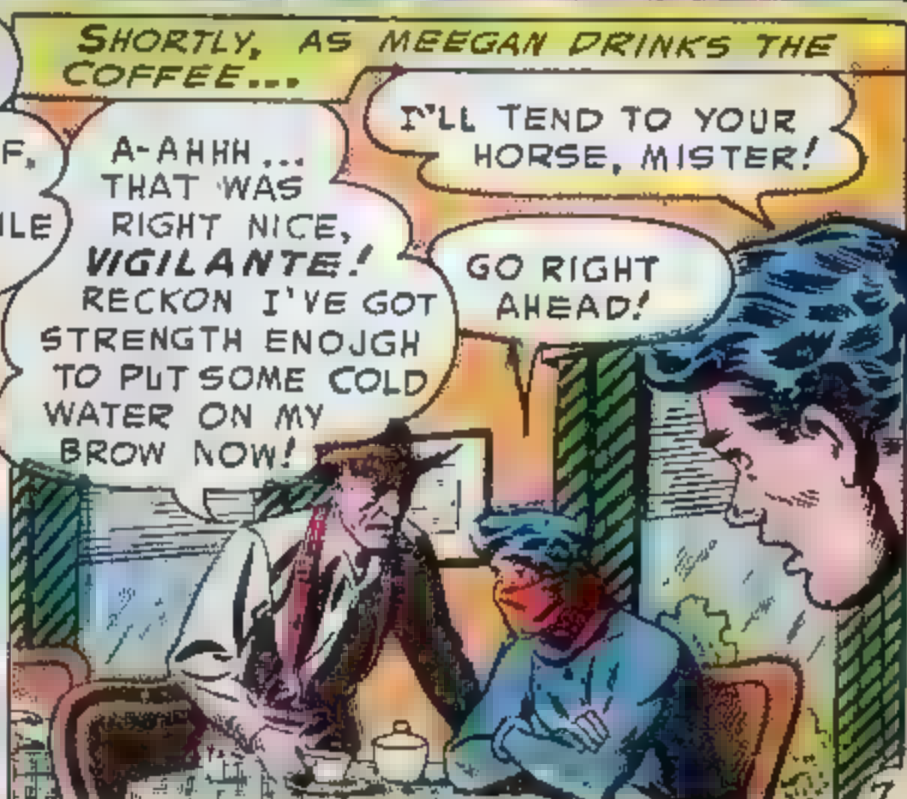
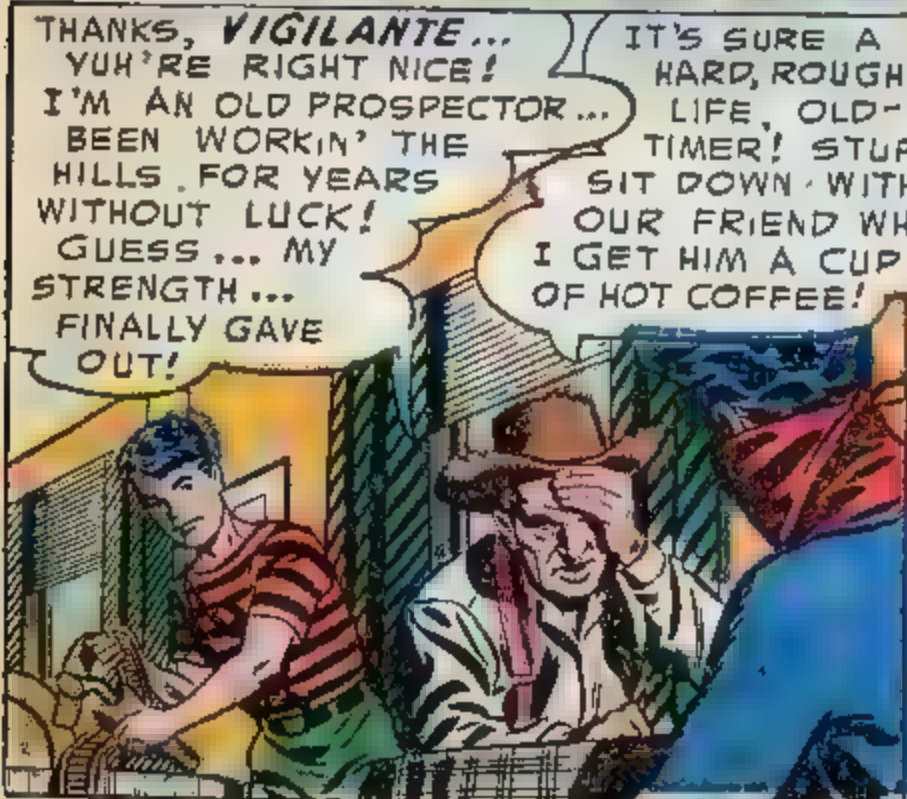
IT'S SURE A
HARD, ROUGH
LIFE, OLD-
TIMER! STUFF,
SIT DOWN WITH
OUR FRIEND WHILE
I GET HIM A CUP
OF HOT COFFEE!

SHORTLY, AS MEEGAN DRINKS THE
COFFEE...

A-AHHH...
THAT WAS
RIGHT NICE,
VIGILANTE!
RECKON I'VE GOT
STRENGTH ENOUGH
TO PUT SOME COLD
WATER ON MY
BROW NOW!

I'LL TEND TO YOUR
HORSE, MISTER!

GO RIGHT
AHEAD!



AND AS SOON AS VIGILANTE
TURNS HIS BACK...



OH-H-H!

I DID IT! I GOT
THE GREAT
VIGILANTE!
I KILLED HIM
ALL ALONE!

BAM!

V-VIG!

DON'T NOBODY
MOVE... NOT
ONE INCH!

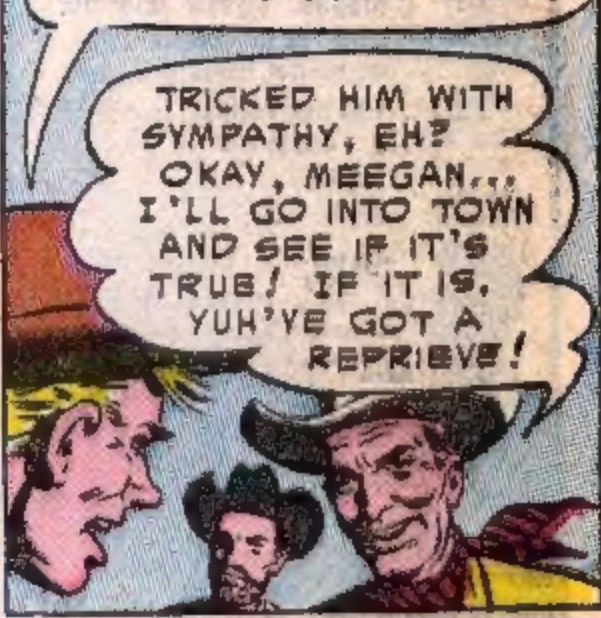


W-WHY... WHY
DID I LEAVE
YOU, VIG?

V-VIGILANTE!
MURDERED!

AN HOUR LATER, HIGH IN
THE HILLS...

I TELL YUH,
IT'S THE TRUTH! I OUT-
FOXED VIGILANTE BY
PRETENDIN' TO BE A
DOWN-AN'-OUT SOURDOUGH!
HE'S COLD STONE DEAD!



TRICKED HIM WITH
SYMPATHY, EH?
OKAY, MEEGAN...
I'LL GO INTO TOWN
AND SEE IF IT'S
TRUE! IF IT IS,
YUH'VE GOT A
REPRIEVE!

BUT ABRUPTLY, AS THE OWLHOOT LEADER
STARTS TO LEAVE...



NOW,
STUFF!

V-VIGILANTE!

B-BUT IT'S NOT
NOT POSSIBLE!

ULP!

THANKS FOR LEADING
US TO THE LAIR OF
THE BRATTON GANG,
MISTER! WITHOUT YOUR
HELP, IT MIGHT HAVE
TAKEN US MONTHS!



B-BUT I SAW
YUH DIE! IT'S
SOME SORT O'
TRICK... YUH
CAN'T BE
ALIVE!

BANG!
BANG!

IT WAS YOUR TRICK
THAT FLOPPED,
BUSTER! EVERY
OLD SOURDOUGH
I EVER KNEW HAD
HARD, ROUGH,
CALLOUSED HANDS!
YOURS WERE SOFT
AS SILK! THAT'S
WHY I PUT BLANK
CARTRIDGES IN
YOUR SHOOTING
IRON WHEN I
GOT YOU
COFFEE!

YUH RAT! I
SHOULD O'DONE
THIS IN THE
FIRST PLACE!

B-BLANKS!
I--- OH---

BANG!

AND AS STUFF OVERPOWERS THE RAGING
OUTLAW LEADER...

HE DIDN'T KILL
YUH LIKE WE
AGREED... AN' IT
MEANT HIS LIFE
FOR DOUBLE-
CROSSIN' US!
IF HE
FAILED!

SO THAT WAS THE
REASON FOR HIS
DESPERATE ATTEMPTS
TO KILL ME! IRONIC
JUSTICE, STUFF... THOSE
WHO LIVE BY OUTLAW
BULLETS USUALLY DIE
BY THEM, TOO!

WELL, I
SURE HOPE NOBODY
ELSE HAS AS STRONG
A REASON AS THAT
FOR GUNNING YOU
DOWN! IT WAS
TOO CLOSE!



THE END

"Hey YOU SKINNY You look like SOMETHING THE CAT DRAGGED IN!"

the boys yelled as I dragged myself into the gym, says Jowett Pupil, Gleason R. Cleveland. Then I gained 70 lbs. and made the football team.

CLEVELAND
BEFORE
90 lb.
Skeletal

CLEVELAND
AFTER JOWETT
TRAINING
160 lbs. of
Muscle

How would YOU
like To Have A New
Body Like Mine? I added

7 INCHES to my CHEST
3 1/2 INCHES to each ARM
and to the rest of my
body in proportion as
YOU can.

Yours *John Sill* UTAH

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Come on, PAL, NOW YOU ^{do} as I did
in 10 EASY MINUTES of FUN a day

Get a NEW HE-MAN BODY
For Your OLD SKELETON FRAME!

I GAINED 60 LBS.
of SHAPELY
MIGHTY **MUSCLES!**

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get this "AMAZING
"SECRETS" Photo Book
while you can.

FREE!



This Book

will also show YOU
HOW YOU CAN WIN

\$100.00 and A BIG 15" tall

SILVER TROPHY (Your Name On It)

as I have just done.

You'll LOOK like A Real HE-MAN!
WIN WOMEN and MEN FRIENDS

You'll FEEL like A Real HE-MAN!
Full of New Strength and Self-Confidence

You'll ACT like A Real HE-MAN!
Win in Sports! Win Promotion, Praise, Popular-

ity. Make More Money.

John Sill
was a 125 lb.
Skinny
Weakling

Let's go, young fellow, Now YOU give me

10 PLEASANT MINUTES A DAY IN YOUR HOME

like SLIM JOHN SILL DID and I'll give YOU a New
HE-MAN BODY as I gave MANY Thousands like YOU

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are. I'll make you OVER
by the SAME method I turned myself from a wreck to the
strongest of the strong. Why can't I do for you what I did for MANY
THOUSANDS of skinny fellows like YOU?

Develop YOUR 520 MUSCLES

Gain Pounds, INCHES FAST!

YES! You'll see INCHES of MIGHTY
MUSCLE added to your ARMS and
CHEST. Your BACK and SHOULDERS
broadened. From head to heels, you'll
gain SIZE, POWER, SPEED. You'll be
A WINNER in EVERYTHING you tackle.

Like John
BECOME A
MOVIE STAR
HE-MAN

ONLY MY 5-WAY
PROGRESSIVE POWER
BUILDS YOU 5-WAYS
FAST SO YOU
SAVE YEARS
AND DOLLARS!



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